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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2015

Beth Margetson – a friend's tribute. PAGE 9
This week – The GEM's Welsh language page. PAGE 24
Porthcawl's 12th Night charity extravaganza PAGE 26
Brides & Grooms - Feature: Pages 20-22

SCHOOL'S GREEN FLAG 'THREEPEAT'

Trelales Primary School is raising its third Green Flag (a threepeat?) in recognition of the pupils' eco-excellence. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3).

£500K grant will help local charity 'transform lives' of the homeless

BRIDGEND is on track to host the first Emmaus community in Wales, after the Welsh Government stepped in and awarded the charity a half-million pound grant.

An Emmaus Community is a building where homeless people are offered accommodation and support, and in turn they will work in the charity's network of shops.

The Welsh Government has provided the cash through the Communities Facilities Programme, which enables community and voluntary groups, as well as social enterprises, to bid for capital grants of up to £500,000 to improve community facilities for vulnerable local people.

Announcing the grant, Lesley Griffiths AM said: "The Emmaus facility will help reduce homelessness in south Wales, while having a life-changing effect on the people using the service."

(*Continued on page 3*)

CAPITAL'S FREE SPEECH VIGIL

WHILE an estimated two million people were taking to the streets of Paris on Sunday, a 'Je suis Charlie' mass vigil was taking place on the steps of the Senedd in the Welsh capital, led by First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend.

The purpose was to remember the 12 'Charlie Hebdo' magazine staff and four hostages at a Jewish supermarket who were killed in terrorist attacks, and to declare support for free speech

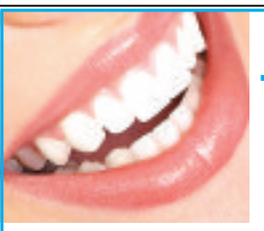
'Don't blame ambulance staff for delays... *we need more hospital beds'*

A concerned mum from Ystradowen has told The GEM of her despair when an ambulance took hours to pick up her seriously ill son, who then had to wait in the vehicle for a lengthy time while a hospital bed was found, *writes TIM CHAPMAN*.

Wendy McGhan explained that the drama took place in the early hours of the morning of Sunday, December 28.

"My 16-year-old son has a serious condition and at around 3.45am I got in touch with Prime Care and NHS Direct," she said.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)



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Readers' Letters

'Wales does well out of the Barnett Formula'
– A READER INSISTS

IT is apparent from Mr D Kearse's letter of December 18 that the public view of discriminatory funding for education and the NHS in Wales is the fault of the Westminster Parliament.

Factually it is to the contrary, as Wales as a whole benefits from the Barnett Formula by almost 14 per cent more funding per head of population for these departments than the population of England. (Scotland benefits by over 19 per cent extra – this does not mean that Wales is being 'underfunded' – just not receiving as much of a bonus as the Scots).

The Welsh Assembly is allocated the additional funding to spend as it sees fit – perhaps the voters in Wales should closely scrutinise where the Assembly allocates these funds and, as Mr Kearse says, ask them to justify this.

Later in that edition of The GEM, the Minister for Finance, AM Jane Hutt, perpetuated the myth by stating several times that Wales should receive a "fairer settlement … via the outdated Barnett Formula".

If that was so and the formula was scrapped for fair application by head of population throughout the UK, the Assembly would receive much less funding.

The Minister, and other AMs, should be ashamed of wilfully and frequently misleading the electorate.

(Name and address supplied)

'THANK YOU TO THE GEM'

I FELT I must write and thank you for your very professional service. I lost my dear husband just before Christmas and wanted to put a notice in The GEM.

The notice you printed included my tribute reproduced in a sensitive font. It was beautiful, and exactly how I wanted it. Thank you and your team with all my heart, for your care and professionalism.

Marie Dowdall, Llantwit Major.

***Editor's note**: Thank you, Mrs Dowdall. Your comments are much appreciated by our GEM staff.*

PACT meetings

CASTLELAND PACT public meeting will be held The Civic Offices, Holton Road on Monday, January 19 at 7pm.

COWBRIDGE PACT meeting will be held at Cowbridge Fire Station, Druids Green, on Monday, January 19 at 11am.

ST AUGUSTINE PACT meeting will be held at the hall in Belle Vue Park, off Albert Road, Penarth on Wednesday, January 21 at 7pm.

LLANTWIT PACT meeting will be held at Llantwit Leisure Centre on Wednesday, January 21 at 7pm.

STANWELL PACT meeting will be held at The Pod, St Lukes Avenue, Penarth on Friday, February 13 at 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting please contact 101 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

PLANNING

Anstee Landscapes and tree felling – Land between 26 and 28 Heol Ffaldau, Brackla Industrial Estate – Erection of commercial building.

Ms Katie Pugh – Talgarth Barn off Haul Bryn, Nantymoel, Bridgend – Conversion and exension of Talgarth Barn to dwelling.

Phillip Larke – 89 Hookland Road, Porthcawl – Two storey rear extension, front dormer windows and internal alterations.

Parliament winding down, but there's life in the old dog yet..!

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP **MADELEINE MOON** writes an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM.

WHEN I was asked to start writing this GEM column almost ten years ago, I hoped to give some insight into the work of an MP – so I thought, as the election approaches, to give some idea of how the business of the Commons changes.

This Parliament saw the introduction of a fixed term lasting five years. The Bill was part of a raft of changes, some good and some bad, which saw a totally different Parliament to that of previous ones.

The good included the creation of backbench business debates. The terms of these debates are chosen by a cross-party group of MPs, elected by fellow backbenchers to give priority to time for debates, in both the main Chamber and in Westminster Hall, of issues chosen with cross-party support for debate.

This has certainly widened the issues debated, usually without a binding motion requiring Government action, but providing an opportunity to raise the profile of issues which impact in constituencies of all political colours.

I apologise for that diversion away from the fixed term Parliament issue and the road to the election, but the information will be helpful later. Many feel that the fixed term Parliament Act has become a millstone around the neck of a Government which has run out of legislation.

The parliamentary order paper is looking thin and, realistically, many MP are heading back to their constituencies by Wednesday evening to begin campaigning on a doorstep near you.

There is still, however, important work to be done. I am Chair of three health-related All Party groups in Parliament (APPG), Kidney, Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention and Motor Neuron Disease, all of which have major issues to address before the election.

This week, the Kidney APPG held an urgent meeting with Earl Howe, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for quality in the Department of Health, responsible for implementation of a major change in kidney dialysis commissioning.

Kidney patients in England had been shocked to learn, just before Christmas, that the DoH intended to move commissioning of dialysis services from a national service to local clinical commissioning groups.

I realise this will not make much sense to us here in Wales. In essence, instead of NHS England commissioning dialysis services, GP-led clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) would take on the responsibility.

There are concerns about this on a number of levels: the time for the consultation on the process was very short and included the Christmas and New Year holiday.

The consultation did not address whether the idea was a good one but how it should happen. Most GPs have on average three dialysis patients and little understanding of dialysis commissioning, and there is a great fear was that there would be little ability at the local level to respond to fluctuations in demand.

It also meant weakening the link between dialysis patients and transplantation teams.

A consultation run by the National Kidney Federation (NKF) with patients, CCGs, GPs and specialists, brought over 300 replies – none of which favoured the change or believed the proposed timescale to be realistic.

There was an overwhelming feeling that there was no need or evidence for the change and that the timescale set for April 2015 was impossible to achieve and create a safe service.

A patient who has end-stage kidney disease and requires dialysis, is very ill. A short delay in obtaining the service can result in death, so this is no small problem for the 23,000 patients and their families.

The APPG meeting brought together specialist consultants, charities, medical professionals and patients to meet the minster in a meeting I chaired.

Changes in Government policy can come from such meetings. Even more devastating can be inquiries held by APPGs into the operation of Government legislation and funding.

Two such reports will be issued in the next few weeks by the Suicide and Self Harm Prevention and Motor Neurone Disease APPGs.

The first inquiry looked at the impact of the Government's 2010 Suicide Prevention Plan and the lack of funding and reporting requirements.

The second looks at the availability of communication support services and equipment for people with MND who lose the ability to talk early in the disease. I can say little about these reports at present as they are not yet in the public domain, but again, I hope they will bring major changes for those who need these services.

These meetings and reports are unglamorous and take place outside of the Chamber, but are critical to persuade Government to change direction.

A Government that has run out of legislation, but is in a fixed term Parliament, has to fill in time in the Chamber.

Increasingly, time will be handed to the Back Bench Business Committee. I made a submission in to the BBBC on Tuesday asking for a Chamber debate which has been granted for January 29.

I want to look at the restoration of open cast coal sites and the burden placed on cash-strapped local authorities to restore such sites where there is little or no restoration fund.

We have such a problem in Kenfig Hill and I want to ask for Treasury support for restoration. The problem exists across the UK and the costs of restoration are huge.

I have pulled together cross-party support for the debate and, hopefully, will be allocated the time to call for money to be released from the Treasury to address the blight and risks faced in local communities.

The Treasury will do what the Treasury always does, deny responsibility and say there is no money.

The debate will air a national problem and the fight for clarification of who carries responsibility for the restorations will be a step closer.

We are in the dog days of this Parliament, but there is life in the old dog yet.

Local AM praises Sustran's work

DURING 2014, Sustrans Cymru worked with 36,000 pupils across Wales, instilling a lifelong appreciation of cycling and walking, while providing innovative resources and services to help meet national literacy and numeracy standards.

Sustrans' current education and young people programme, funded by the Welsh Government, aims to bring about "a healthier, smarter and greener nation".

In Bridgend county borough, six new schools joined Sustrans in working to reduce the number of pupils being driven to school in 2014.

Before starting the scheme with Sustrans, only 7 per cent of children in these schools were cycling regularly to school, but by the end of 2014, this percentage had tripled to 21 per cent.

There was a similar increase in scooting (7 per cent to 22 per cent) and also a small increase in walking. The percentage of children regularly driven to school has dropped from 53 per cent to 45 per cent.

First Minister and Bridgend AM, Carwyn Jones, commented: "I was delighted to hear about the success of Sustrans schemes encouraging pupils to walk, cycle or scooter to school.

"This is great news for the whole community, reducing traffic and creating healthier lifestyles for children across Bridgend.

"I am pleased that due to funding from the Welsh Government, Sustrans are inspiring a new generation of active travellers."

Sustrans now works with 20 schools across Bridgend county borough.

'Protect the Newton flood defences'
– SAYS AN AM

A regional Tory AM, Byron Davies, says he will press the Welsh Government to reverse its decision to stop maintaining flood defences at Newton.

Mr Davies, accompanied by Meirion Jenkins, who is the party's parliamentary candidate for Bridgend, visited householders along Beach Road who are affected by the decision.

Mr Davies was told that a new shoreline management plan, produced by Natural Resources Wales and endorsed by Minister Carl Sergeant, has stated that they will stop maintaining flood defences in 15 years time.

Residents say that this makes their properties unsaleable because no-one will be able to get a mortgage.

Mr Davies said: "There are some very worried householders in Newton who are naturally concerned about this decision.

"While sea levels may not rise and everything may be fine, we all know that financial institutions, like banks and building societies, will err on the side of caution – and may be unwilling to lend money to people wishing to buy these properties in future.

"This could leave the owners in limbo. The affected houses cost hundreds of thousands of pounds each and the decision has drastic repercussions for them."

Mr Jenkins said that this was a nightmare scenario for residents.

"The Welsh Government must be persuaded to change its mind and lift the sword of Damocles hanging over these residents," he said.

"They are in this position through no fault of their own. It is grossly unfair that their homes could be devalued in this way.

"There must be a re-think. The cost of maintaining these flood defences is peanuts compared to the value of the property involved."

Mr Davies said that extra money for flood defences was announced recently by the Welsh Government and he will be pressing Carl Sergeant AM to look again at this decision.

"I will also be contacting Bridgend County Borough Council, which has played a key role in the drawing up of the strategic plan for the foreshore within the borough."

He added: "For the sake of a few thousand pounds a year to maintain the wall, which protects properties in Beach Road, the country could lose properties jointly worth £17m and which contribute £100,000 a year in council tax. It is economic lunacy."

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL JANUARY 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	00.47	7.6	13.19	7.6
16 Fri	01.56	7.6	14.28	7.8
17 Sat	03.08	8.1	15.36	8.5
18 Sun	04.17	8.7	16.33	8.9
19 Mon	05.11	9.4	17.34	9.5
20 Tues	05.59	9.9	18.23	10.0
21 Wed	06.47	10.4	19.11	10.3
22 Thur	07.31	10.7	20.41	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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Grant to homeless charity can make a 'real difference' to Bridgend people

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Lesley Griffiths continued: "I encourage other community groups who want to create opportunities in their area and tackle both the causes and effects of poverty to apply to the fund.

"We want to see improved facilities in the heart of communities, benefitting individuals and families now and in the future."

Emmaus is a homelessness charity with 24 successful projects in England and Scotland. The funding announced today will support its first project in Wales – the renovation of Nant Lais, a former sheltered accommodation block in Cefn Glas, Bridgend.

The refurbished building will provide high-quality accommodation for 23 homeless people.

This will help residents to gain work, move into private rented accommodation and eventually ensure they can support themselves and live stable, fulfilled lives.

Tom Clarke, the director of Emmaus South Wales said: "Emmaus South Wales is delighted to be able to proceed with renovating Nant Lais, a former sheltered accommodation in Bridgend, and turning it into a vibrant Emmaus Community home for 23 formerly homeless people.

"We believe that we can make a real difference to those affected by homelessness; the fact that this is Wales' first Emmaus Community makes it really special.

"We are grateful to the Welsh Government and our other funders for their practical support and confidence in us as an organisation.

"It is also important to recognise the months, and in some cases years, of hard work put in by Emmaus South Wales trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters, which has taken forward the vision of setting up an Emmaus community in South Wales and turning that into an attainable reality."

The grant will enable Emmaus to buy the property, which is currently owned by Valleys to Coast Housing. As soon as Emmaus take possession, the refurbishment will start.

Tom Clarke said: "We think that a realistic timescale is to take in our first companion in 12 months time."

He explained that the companions are required to sign off any benefits, apart from housing benefit which goes to Emmaus, and work a 40-hour week.

He said that getting back into the world of work had the potential to transform lives.

In only a few years, Emmaus have been able to open a string of charity shops in the area, and these have been raising funds to adapt the building in Cefn Glas.

When that is up and running, the five shops, two in Bridgend and one in Porthcawl, Maesteg and Neath, will raise funds to maintain the community house.

Winter storms mean Porthcawl is in the news once again...

ABOVE:
Photographers head for Porthcawl these days when the wind is blowing, the tide is high, and the harbour light takes its usual battering. There is no shortage of images out there to choose from, but here in The GEM we liked this picture from Susan Dobbs, in particular for the wave patterns on the right, below the white foam. Next week, the tides will be higher from Wednesday (January 21) through to Sunday – but it is, of course, a little early to say how strong the wind will be.

Trelales school pupils collect their third Green Flag...

AFTER putting their energy into saving electricity, encouraging recycling and being as 'green' as possible, pupils at Trelales Primary School in Laleston are celebrating their latest award from Keep Wales Tidy (*see photo on page 1*).

The school has picked up its third Green Flag award, in recognition of its commitment to the environment.

Eco touches that can be found throughout the school include a plastic bottle greenhouse, composting, bug hotels and a nature area.

Pupils check that electrical equipment has been switched off when not in use around the school, and are also taught about the importance of recycling materials such as food waste, cardboard, paper and glass. They have even collected spectacles which were donated in support of African Vision Aid.

Cycling and scooting are promoted as environmentally-friendly methods of transport, and a 'super sleuth' goes undercover to award a prize to a classmate who has ridden their bike to school.

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon joined the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Gary Thomas, as well as BCBC cabinet members Coun Huw David and Coun Phil White, to congratulate the school on their achievement last week.

Coun White said: "The whole school should be very proud of their efforts in developing all areas of the Green Flag project. Achieving a Green Flag award is the culmination of a lot of hard work and commitment to being as 'green' as possible.

"Special congratulations should go to the pupils who are part of the eco committee and 'Bike it' crew, as well as the school's eco co-ordinator Janet Fullstone."

The school will now work towards gaining its Green Flag platinum award from Keep Wales Tidy.

Rotary Club praise for appeal support

BRIDGEND Rotary Club members and president Sue Cassidy have thanked residents for their generous support for the Christmas charity appeal, which raised over £3,000.

The president stated that: "Without the kindness shown by a great many of our community, we would be poorer as individuals and as a community.

"As a result of this generosity, we will be in a position to offer some important and much-needed charitable support to local organisations that find themselves in need later this year."

The Annual General Meeting of
Bridgend County Borough Citizens Advice Bureau
will be held at 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend on Thursday January 22nd at 5pm.
All welcome.

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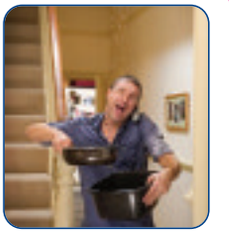

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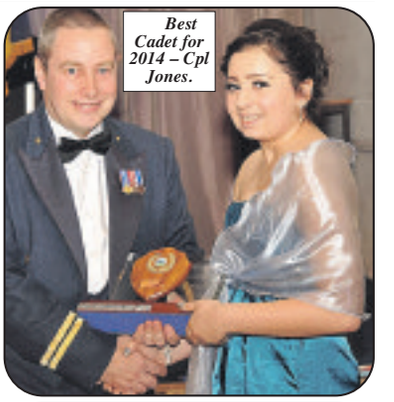
ATC Squadron looks back on a very busy year

All pictures can be seen at: http://juliehancock.org.



Best Cadet for 2014 – Cpl Jones.

Flt Lt Williams Memorial Shield for Outstanding Technical Achievement Award – Cadet Young.

AT the 2426 Pencoed Squadron Winter Ball, Simon Dring, ATC Officer Commanding, opened the proceedings.

He said: "2014 has been a very busy year for the Squadron, with the 50th anniversary of its formation and the prestigious award of the freedom of Pencoed granted by the Pencoed Town Council.

"We have celebrated with a church service back in March on the anniversary and with the freedom parade at the end of November.

"This has been over and above the usual actives we take part in such as the Easter training camp which saw six cadets earning at least two qualifications each, summer camp, armed forces day in Cardiff, the Battle of Britain parade at St Athan and in Neath and Armistice Day.

"We have taken part in bag packs, book sales, RAFA and Poppy collections, raising 1,000s of pounds. We have seen the step-down of Flt Lt Greene and myself taking over at the end of November.

"I would like to thank all the staff who run the squadron, the civilian welfare committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make things such as this evening happen, the cadets, and finally the parents who help us.

"Well done to all involved. Not everyone will receive an award tonight but everyone should be proud of their personal achievements and the collective achievements of the squadron."

"We meet on Mondays and Thursday 'Off Green Pencoed', at 7pm – 9.30pm. All are welcome to join."

Contact Simon Dring ATC Officer Commanding. e-mail: oc.2426@aircadets.org. Telephone: 01656869024, 07833 490632 mobile.

AWARD WINNERS Flt Lt Williams Memorial Shield for Outstanding Technical Achievement – Cdt young; Community Award – Cpl Jones; Lewis Shield Sportsperson award – Cpl Wall; Best newcomer – Cdt Brown; Best NCO – Sgt Vicker Best cadet for 2014 – Cpl Jones.

Best newcomer – Cdt Brown.

Lewis Shield Sportsperson award – Cpl Wall.

Flt Lt Green with Simon Dring.

Best NCO – Sgt Vicker.

News from the Porthcawl Bridge Club

THE Christmas holidays effectively closed the club for two weeks, but since then, the Porthcawl Bridge Club has held its New Year's party, with the club providing wine to complement the fine cuisine supplied by each member.

Also, the club teams championship for the Margaret Thomas Bowl was won by Keith Davison's team. Other results over the (quiet) Christmas period were:

Saturday, January 3: New Year's Party – First, Tony Haworth and Liam Sheridan; second, Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Monday, January 5: First, Gary Williams and Tony Haworth; second, Trish Saunders and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, January 8: Club Teams Championship – First, Keith Davison, Tony Haworth, Pat Haworth, Gary Williams; Second, Terry Dolan, Roger Plant, Dil and Marian Evans.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, 7pm–10.15pm.

Visitors are welcome at any time. To contact the club, call secretary Trish, on 01656785794.

TH

Training company wins a Welsh Assembly contract

THE organisation which runs a training centre in Bridgend has been awarded a contract by the Welsh Government that could be worth more than £50 million over the next four to six years.

Itec Training Solutions Limited says the contract is an 'investment in the future' of its centre in Wyndham Street and the company's six other centres across south Wales.

The company, founded more than 30 years ago, has agreed a comprehensive, rolling package of training services with the Welsh Government, subject to performance and quality reviews, as part of the campaign to give Welsh adults and young people the skills required by employers.

One of Wales' fastest-growing companies, Itec's other training premises are in Cardiff, Newport, Cwmbran, Llwynypia and Caerphilly.

The Bridgend centre offers training in disciplines such as hospitality and catering, childcare, retail and warehousing, customer service and business administration.

The company also works with employers to provide them with job candidates and upskill their current employees.

Bridgend centre manager Sian Fretwell said: "People stand a far better chance of getting a job if they take advantage of the training available.

"Through our contacts with local employers, we also help our learners find rewarding jobs and careers.

"Contract awards such as this enable us to plan and invest for the future with a degree of confidence which is essential if we are to fulfil our primary objectives of preparing people for work and aligning our services with the needs of employers."

Charity appeals for unwanted items

A PORTHCAWL charity shop is asking local people to give it any unwanted items that they may have around the house after Christmas.

Ian Thomas, the charity's Chief Executive, said: "The new year is the perfect time to have a clear out and start the year with a clean slate.

"Get rid of your Christmas clutter by giving it to the Age Cymru Porthcawl charity shop – we're more than happy to take it off your hands.

"You'll also be helping us to raise money that supports the charity's vital work in ensuring older people across the country can make the most of later life."

Age Cymru Porthcawl is located at 37 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP. The shops accept clothing, household items, DVDs, CDs, books, children's clothing and toys – and every donation helps.

TWO REASONS TO CELEBRATE AT PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE!

The travel and tourism course and the senior citizens visit the pantomime.

MEMBERS of the school's senior citizens' club enjoyed a visit to see the *Aladdin* pantomime in Porthcawl recently.

The visit was planned by year-13 pupils as part of their A-level travel and tourism course.

A two-course lunch and refreshments are available at school for senior citizens at 12pm every Tuesday and Thursday during term time. .

Mr David George, the headteacher, was also pleased recently to receive a £500 Marks & Spencer gift card on behalf of the school.

Mrs Myra Jones, a local resident, had won a competition organised by The Glamorgan GEM – the prize to be donated to a school of the winner's choice.

"We're very grateful to Mrs Jones for her decision to give us the gift card, as a result of her grandchildren having attended Pencoed Comprehensive," he said

Police appeal over Bridgend stolen car

SOUTH Wales Police are appealing for information on the whereabouts of a car that was stolen in Bridgend.

The car, a silver Renault Clio, was stolen from outside an address on Maes-Y-Felin, Wildmill, Bridgend at around 9pm on Sunday, November 16 last year.

PC Nicola Willey said: "We would ask the public to remain vigilant and report any sightings of the car, registration number CP54 AKZ, to us. Similarly if anyone has any information about the theft of the car, or identity of the man in the CCTV image, we would urge you to also get in touch".

Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1400429713.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

ABOVE: The man police would like to trace.

The stolen Renault Clio.

Read your GEM online - just visit *bridgend-today.co.uk*, and follow the link

Mr George and Mrs Myra Jones, who donated a £500 cheque to the school.

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a
PREMISES LICENCE.
To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of : Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk. Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:- Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: Mr Zahid Rasul/Mrs Saima Rasul

Name and postal address of the premises: 33 Market Street Bridgend CF31 1LJ

Statement of intended licensable activities: (1) Plays, films, indoor sporting event, live music, boxing or wrestling entertainment, record music, supply of alcohol, performance of dance, rugby or football match from 11.30am till 2.30am. Refreshments 11.30am till 2300hrs.

Date by which representations must be made:
5th February 2015.
This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely Bridgend CBC on 08/1/15 for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

Sker WI turns focus on care

THE January meeting of Sker WI was held recently, when Resolutions were discussed at length. It was decided that the resolution 'Failing to care – assessment of need in long-term care' should be put forward to the NFWI.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Diana John, who had worked as a midwife, and she told us about her trip to Kobe in 1990 to an international conference attended by 6,000 midwives from 42 countries.

While in Japan, Diana visited a number of places, including Hiroshima and Mount Fuji. She showed us slides places and ended her talk with a bow.

We have plenty to look forward to in the coming months, including a Pancake evening in February,which will include a Beetle drive.

The birthday supper is in April and a trip to Mumbles for lunch and a fashion show is in May.

The next meeting will be on February 12 at 7pm in St David's Church Hall, Nottage. Mr Derrick Warren will tell of 'The day I burned a million pounds'.

Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

Ann Vipond

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april

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01656 863963

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Recalling working class martyr Dick Penderyn...

THE Newton WI's first meeting of 2015 was celebrated in style, with a soft drinks toast to welcome in the New Year.

The speaker for the evening was Ceri Joseph, who spoke about Dick Penderyn (the first Welsh working class hero). He was born Richard Lewis at Tai Bach in 1808. He got involved with the industrial unrest in Merthyr Tydfil and was branded as one of the ringleaders.

Penderyn, as he was then known, was falsely accused and found guilty of stabbing a militiaman. Although innocent, he was hanged at Cardiff in 1831 aged 23 years.

Preparations are in hand for the Christmas party celebrations to be held on January 14. The entertainment will provided by the Porthcawl Ukulele Band.

The Competition Cup for 2014 was awarded to Gladys Medford for her imaginative items. Well done. A group of our members will be attending the pantomime at the New Theatre, Cardiff arranged by Shirley.

This is an important year in the WI calendar as it is the centenary of the NFWI, and we look forward to the new year ahead with great anticipation. For more information, call Pearl Mason on 01656 772657.

M FREEMAN

APPLE HEARING WILL GET TO THE CORE OF YOUR PROBLEM...

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• *This demonstration is free and can be done in the privacy of your home, or a hearing centre near you. Contact us on 0800 5872318 now... You may not know what you're missing!*

Local brewery that made world headlines over 'Tiger' is up for sale

RIGHT: Here's to a new chapter in the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery story. Dave Walbeoff and Ian Teagle want their award-winning business to be in the hands of someone with an enthusiasm for craft beers.

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

THE owners of a Vale brewery that made world headlines during the Ryder Cup in 2010, have put it up for sale.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brewery has established a fun reputation over its decade in business and came to prominence when golf's greatest tournament was held on Welsh soil.

The brewery, owned by Dave Walbeoff and Ian Teagle, poked gentle fun at Tiger Woods by brewing a 'Tiger Would' bitter – referring to his much publicised love of the ladies!

Dave said: "We were struggling for a name and Ian came up with up with 'Tiger Would' as a joke.

"The press cottoned on to it and it went ballistic! I made an appearance on Radio Wales' show hosted by Jamie Owen, and it made national headlines."

In fact, it made headlines as far afield as Canada , Australia, and on a US golfing blog.

The Ryder Cup wasn't the only big event to be immoratalised with a Vale of Glamorgan brew.

Dave explained: "We've made a real name for ourselves in doing special occasion bitters, such as 'Still Reigning', celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and 'Love is in the Heir', marking the royal wedding of William and Kate.

"Over the years, we've developed a quirky, likeable image. We've had a great run over the last few years and decided to sell it on to someone who can move it to the next level.

"We are currently looking for potential buyers for the brewery – people who have a passion for craft beer and the desire to expand the business.

"The beers are well respected and the brand is well known locally but it requires a new shot of energy and enthusiasm to expand further.

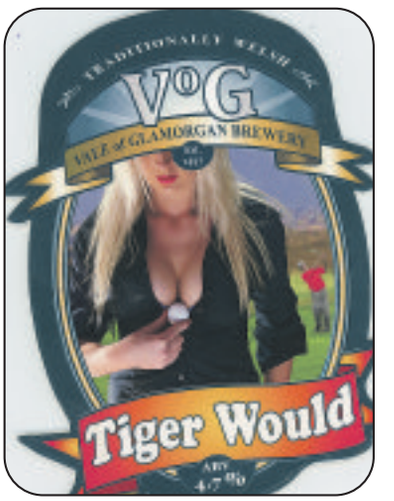
"The year 2014 was a great one for us winning the 'Champion Stout of Wales' award from CAMRA.

"We even had someone drive down from Ascot especially to buy their Christmas beer from us as they thought our Nugget Golden Ale was the best beer they'd ever drunk!"

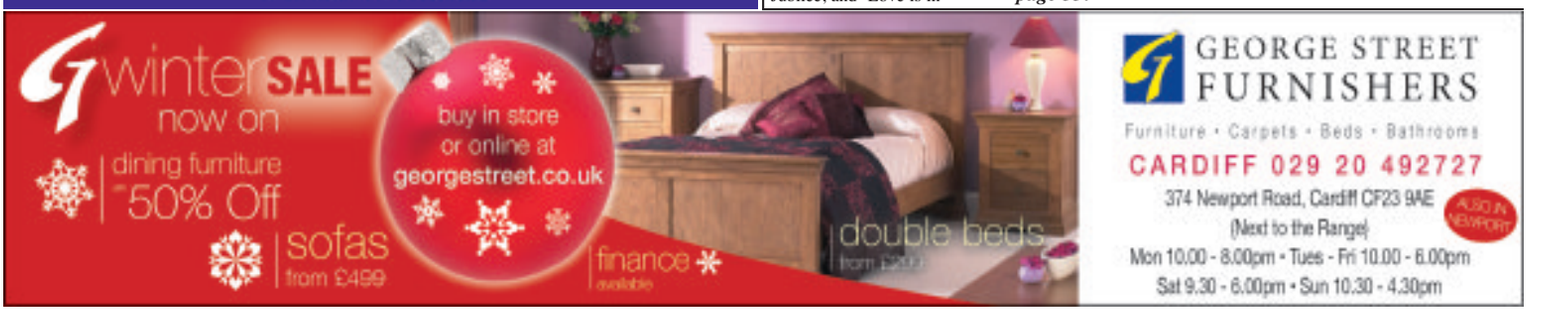
The asking price for the brewery, which is based at the Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry, is £120,000. Enquiries should be sent to 07743 329140 or dave@vogbrewery.co.uk

For more details on the sale, see the advertisement on page 33.

The Queen's Diamond Jubiee was celebrated in Welsh pubs with the 'Still Reigning' brew!



The brewery celebrated Tiger's love of the ladies with the 'Tiger Would' tipple.



‘Excuse me... Some of our bolts are missing!’

ABOVE: Cadets presenting the Squadron polo shirt. Picture by Sgt (ATC) Peckham R.

ON a dry but very windy day, six cadets and three staff from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets visited eCube Solutions, an aircraft dismantling company based at MoD St Athan.

The company was set up around three years ago, and has had a steady stream of aircraft arriving for dismantling, resulting in around 1,000 parts on each aircraft being re-usable after being re-certified following servicing.

The highlight of the visit was being allowed on a Boeing 747 Cargo Jumbo Jet which is being dismantled at the site by Chevron Technical Services under a business agreement with eCube.

The cadets were allowed into the cockpit and crew rest area, both in the upstairs section of the aircraft. They also went into the massive cargo area, which is where the seats in a passenger version would be.

Their tour of the aircraft ended with each cadet and staff member being given a five inch (125mm) bolt from the aircraft as a souvenir – don’t worry, they won’t be missed! After being shown a couple of other aircraft at the site, Cdt Sgt Clarke JL presented their host with a squadron polo shirt as a thank you for permitting their visit, for which all the cadets and staff were most grateful.

Cancer help in Bridgend

MACMILLAN Cancer Support is offering a free self-management programme in Bridgend to anyone living with cancer – to help them manage the emotional impact of their diagnosis.

HOPE, Macmillan’s self-management course, will run at Bridgend Life Centre on Angel Street on Wednesdays for six weeks from 10am to 12.30pm (starting on January 21).

“It is designed to help people affected by cancer manage the day-to-day impact of their condition, learn proactive ways to take control of their health and wellbeing in a supportive environment and set positive goals for the future,” said Susan Morris, general manager for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales.

“We at Macmillan know that receiving a cancer diagnosis has a huge emotional impact.

“Around 18,000 people receive the devastating news that they have cancer every year in Wales and they need more than medical help – they also need practical, emotional and financial support.”

People wishing to attend the programme must register in advance. Contact Genette Webster on 01656 867960, or email gwebster@macmillan.org.uk.

To find out how you can help Macmillan, call 0300 1000 200 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk

Please support Porthcawl’s tourism – CALL

THE Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bridgend, Meirion Jenkins, is calling for improved support for the tourist industry in Porthcawl.

He recently visited the offices of the town’s Harbourside project with Coun Ken Watts (Con, Newton) and met Mike Clarke and Stuart Bentley.

The project was founded by a Porthcawl group to develop the area around the harbour and RNLI building for tourism and the local economy. Mr Jenkins said afterwards that Porthcawl should be treated on a par with other Welsh destinations.

Brynteg students hosted a tea party for local elderly residents.

Students lay on a party for older folk

A TEA party organised by South Wales Police for the charity Contact the Elderly, and hosted by Brynteg students studying for their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, was so successful that the school decided to host another tea party for elderly residents at the end of the Christmas term.

The students (Welsh Bacc and other sixth formers) worked hard to prepare the refreshments.

When the invited residents arrived, they were treated to a lovely spread of refreshments and were entertained by year-11 pupils studying for their BTEC Performing Arts qualification.

Also in attendance was PCSO Peter Simpson, who assisted in serving the guests and listened to any concerns they may have had.

The headteacher Mr Jenkins also spoke to the guests and warmly welcomed them to the school.

The afternoon was a great opportunity for old and young to chat together and the students gained a better understanding of the needs and concerns of older people.

The students were regaled with stories from the past. One elderly lady delighted the students with tales of her experiences in her time at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. It truly was an enjoyable afternoon, spent in good company and was much appreciated by all who attended.

PD

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Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor:
Monday 26th January 2015 2-4pm
Brackla Community Centre:
Monday 9th February 2015 2-4pm
Event will cover:
• Money Management
• Debt
• Benefits
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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS...

Laleston WI

LALESTON Women's Institute's January meeting opened with president Margaret Aylen wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year, and two guests were welcomed.

The minutes were read by secretary Diane Marshall and subscriptions collected by treasurer Margaret Williams.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Mike Boyles, whose musical topic was 'Hopes & Dreams' and the members were entertained with excerpts from films and shows such as *Joseph*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Les Miserables* and *Carousel* – just what was needed to brighten up a dark wet January evening.

With 2015 being the centenary year of the Women's Institute, there is a busy and exciting year ahead. As well as Laleston WI's full programme of events and meetings, there are additional celebrations being organised by the Glamorgan Federation throughout the year.

Members are already looking forward to the Federation lunch and fashion show in April eand the summer garden party in July at Margam Park.

At the next meeting on February 5 at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club) High Street, Laleston the WI is having a Beetle Drive. Guests always welcome; for more information, telephone Margaret/Diane on 01656 660384/656600.

Tynyrheol Primary

TYNYRHEOL primary school thanks parents and carers for the support everyone has given in workshops that teaching staff have devised to enable them to be a partner in their children's education.

It takes a great deal of time and effort to put these programmes together and they have had a significant impact on the pupils' achievements.

The school is organising a reading club for year-5 and a cooking café for year-6 on Fridays until half term.

The following pupils achieved 100 per cent attendance for last term: Logan Cinderby, Lloyd Grabham, Megan Grabham, Harry Hopwood, Max Loosmore, Noah Pook, Roman Pook, Zack Steele and Ellie Street. Well done to them all!

Kerry would like to advise parents of children in class 3 they will have the opportunity to go swimming this term from January 26 until February 6, at 11am until 12pm every day in Ynysawdre Leisure Centre.

Pupils took part in the Bridgend school's cross-country race at Brynteg Comprehensive School before Christmas. Gethin Lewis came 15th out of 112 runners in the year 3/4 boy's race; Dylan Sage came 66th out of 112 runners in the year 3/4 boy's race; Zoe Baird came 64th out of 98 runners in the year 3/4 girls race; Tyler Williams came 27th out of 69 runners in the year 5/6 boys race.

The next meeting will be at Pencoed Comprehensive School on Thursday, January 31.

Aberkenfig & District WI

MEMBERS of Aberkenfig & District WI have expressed sadness at the death of Mrs Edith Evans.

In July 1981, Aberkenfig & District WI was founded by Edith Evans and a group of like-minded ladies. Under her guidance, the group gradually grew into a fully-fledged Women's Institute and moved from meeting in members' homes to the Welfare Hall in Aberkenfig.

It is due to her total commitment, enthusiasm and the sound foundations she laid that the institute still prospers today.

Edith was president for 20 years and will always be remembered as a very active member and dear friend of the branch.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
Tel: 01656 725399 • E-Mail: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Ogmore Valley primary

I WOULD like to congratulate Mrs Viv Thomas, the new headteacher at the school, who has started by informing children of her New Year's resolution for the school – which is 'To be the best I can be and to support you to achieve your very best'.

She is extremely passionate about education and strongly believes in the power of everyone working together to support the children to achieve their full potential academically and become happy, healthy individuals with a love of learning.

The school has the child for only 9 per cent of his/her time throughout the year; therefore, it is essential that everyone works together to ensure that the children get the best opportunities in life.

She invites parents and carers to attend a 'meet and greet' session on Thursday, January 22 between 3pm – 5pm.

The designated person for child protection and safeguarding is Mrs V Thomas (Headteacher), the deputy designated person is Mrs J Morgan (Deputy Head), the safeguarding governors are Nigel Burnap and Huw Daniel and the child protection officers are: Mrs C Hobbs (foundation phase) and Mrs S Roderick (juniors).

The local authority child protection coordinator is Sam Jones.

Sad loss

I, ALONG with the choristers of Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir, would like to offer our condolences to the relatives of John Kingdon.

I had dealings with John when he was Pastor at Aberkenfig Bible Church from where he had to retire through poor health. John was a lovely person who never had a bad word to say about anyone, and he will be sorely missed.

John became a chorister in the Gleemen after his retirement and really enjoyed being a member of this friendly group.

Last month, the choir made the long trip to perform in Southampton at a charity event in the famous 'Grand Café' for the Evelyn Rose appeal. The Gleemen had met the grandparents of little Evelyn Rose at the Holiday Inn in Reading, when they were performing at a separate charity event there.

Evelyn has a genetic condition so rare, that only 42 people in the world suffer from it. She has defied the odds to survive, thanks to the doctors and nurses who were the honoured guests on the day.

The Gleemen performance was hugely appreciated, in this famous building where the First Class passengers stayed before they embarked on their fateful voyage on the Titanic.

It was also the site where Winston Churchill and Dwight Eisenhower planned the Normandy invasion in the Second World War. The event raised £11,000 for the charity. The Gleemen were able to contribute £400 towards this figure thanks to the generosity of supporters of the choir back in Maesteg.

The choir was given a standing ovation for its contribution towards a successful fundraising event.

Later in the month, along with a large number of pupils from Maesteg Comprehensive School, they entertained customers of Tesco in Maesteg while collecting money for Ashley Talbot's family.

Ashley was the schoolboy tragically killed in a motor accident at the school, and the event raised the generous amount of £1,000, well done to everyone.

Tondu primary

CHILDREN in Mr Lewis's class, Usk, will be having swimming lessons on January 26 – 30.

The following pupils were awarded the most Good Manners points in their classes last term, and invited for a celebration tea at Bryngarw country park tomorrow, January 16 at 2pm:

Mrs Ashton's class, **Afan**: Dylan Merrett, Maya Norfolk; Mrs Jones/Mrs Goldsworthy's class, **Cynffig**: Rhys Hopkins, Jack Rose; Mrs Richards/Mrs Goldsworthy's class, **Ewenni**: Aidan Radford, Elliott Zhang; Mrs Pugh's class, **Garw**: Ryland Evans, Emily Williamson; Mr Thomas's class, **Llynfi**: Lara Morris, Sam Thomas; Miss Davies's class, **Ogwr**: Jessica Evans, Callum Withey; Miss Hopkin's class, **Rhondda**: Leoni Lear, Tamzin Williams; Miss Jones/Miss Mahoney's class, **Taf**: Dylan Griffiths, Joshua Payne; Mr Lewis's class, **Usk**: Mya-Paige Fahey, Amy Brice- Richards.

Annual concert

COR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) is holding its 40th annual concert at Maesteg town hall on Saturday, January 31 at 7pm. Compere for the evening will be BBC presenter Beverley Humphreys with guest artists Cantare – comprising soprano Angharad Morgan and tenor David Fortey.

They started singing together in 2001, when they both studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where they performed in a show titled *From Covent Garden to Broadway*. They provide a unique blend of music from opera to musical theatre.

Angharad performed as a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne Festival Opera in 2013. She has also performed with Wexford Festival Opera and Welsh National Opera.

David began his professional career with Glyndebourne Festival Opera and later with Garsington Festival Opera. Since 2007, he has been a full time member of the award-winning ensemble Only Men Aloud.

Tickets £8, available from Rob on 07969203251, John on 07429637068 and Maesteg town hall.

Maesteg heats

NEXT Saturday (December 17) at the town hall, Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir is organising the heats of a competition in conjunction with Bridgend county borough council.

The competition is intended to foster young talent and encourage the performance of classical music by young singers. Sponsored by Dunraven Windows it consists of different sections: years 11 to 14, 15 to 18 and 19 to 25.

Those taking part are as follows; in the group ages 11 – 14 Millie Stables (Porthcawl Comprehensive); Abi Audsley (Porthcawl Comprehensive); Matthew Daly (Bryntirion Comprehensive); Tessa Castanera-Webber (St Clares); Layla Millar (Porthcawl Comprehensive).

For ages 15 – 18: Lucy Vinen (Porthcawl Comprehensive), Lauren Coates (Bryntirion Comprehensive), Anwen Angharad Dixon (Ysgol Llangynwyd).

Ages 19 – 25 sopranos: Carly Marie Owen, Charlotte Howes, Ellen Williams, Jessica Robinson, Carrie Thompson, Meinir Wyn Roberts, Alys M Roberts, Charlotte Trepess, Gemma Thomas.

Mezzos: Claire Barnett-Jones, Angharad Lyddon.

Tenors: Gethin Lewis, Andrew Henley, Elgan Llyr Thomas.

Bass/baritones: Emyr Wyn Jones, Huw DM Rendall, Robert G Garland, Lukasz Karauda.

The winners of the first two groups will receive the Bryan Davies trophy and a prize to the value of £500, made up as follows: £100 personal cheque and a voucher for £400 to further music education within his/her school along with a personal trophy.

The runners-up in each category will receive a personal prize of £50 and a voucher for £50 to further music education within his/her school, along with a personal trophy.

The winner of the 19 to 25 group will receive £2,500 and a perpetual trophy, with runners-up receiving £500.

Churches meet

THERE is a meeting of the members of Aberkenfig & District United Churches at St John's Church, Aberkenfig tonight (January 15) at 7pm.

Betws Foodbank

THE above charity started five years ago, and in the first year supported 37 families; in 2011 it was 39 families; 2012 51 families, and last year, 63 families.

In 2014, 191.5kg of food had been donated along with £140 in money. The volunteers would like to thank everyone involved.

Work to start soon on replacing St Bride's Road Bridge

by PHILIP IRWIN

A MAJOR engineering project costing almost £2 million to replace an ageing railway bridge between St Bride's Major and Ewenny is set to go ahead in February.

If all goes to plan, it will mean that a section of the B4265 will be closed from Monday, February for a total of five months.

Residents are being invited to a drop-in session to find out more about the project, which should improve traffic flow.

St Brides Road bridge, between Ewenny and St Brides Major on the B4265, will be transformed from a one-lane bridge to a structure with increased capacity which can support two lanes of traffic and a pedestrian footway.

Clearly, a two-lane bridge will mean that the existing single lane traffic lights can be removed.

The bridge is also being raised slightly so that it will be able to accommodate any future electrification plans. The £1.9m project is jointly funded by Network Rail and the Vale Council.

Residents wishing to find out more details about the plans can attend a community event on Monday, January 19, at St Brides Major Church-in-Wales Primary School between 3pm and 7pm.

Members of the Network Rail project team and the Vale Council will be on hand to answer any questions and explain how the work will be carried out.

Loren Curry, programme manager for Network Rail Wales, said: "We are rebuilding St Brides Road Bridge as part of our work to provide a modern, bigger and better railway for Wales.

"The bridge is coming to the end of its life and therefore needs to be replaced. We've worked closely with the Vale Council to deliver an improved bridge.

"We have planned the work to be completed in the safest and most efficient way. I apologise for any inconvenience caused and I'd like to thank drivers and residents in the area for bearing with us as we do this vital work."

Coun Rob Curtis, the Vale Council cabinet member for the environment, said: "This work is great news for both drivers and pedestrians as the new bridge will provide not only increased capacity for cars but also a new footpath".

Network Rail has worked closely with the Vale Council regarding a diversionary route through Ogmore and Southerndown, which will be clearly signposted. Both Network Rail and the Vale of Glamorgan Council apologise for any inconvenience caused during this essential work and will do everything possible to minimise disruption.

Residents who would like additional information can call Network Rail's 24-Hour National Helpline on 08457 11 41 41 or the Vale Council on 01446 700111.

Regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, said the improvements were overdue but very welcome.

He said: "This work is long overdue and the area has been something of a bottleneck, causing significant delays and frustration to local motorists.

"These welcome improvements will increase the flow of traffic in the area, but it is vital that the work is completed on schedule, unlike recent work at Gileston Bends in the Vale where residents have endured endless delays."

Help make a difference this year

MANY people will be making the usual New Year's resolutions – vowing to live a healthier lifestyle, save money or change their diet.

Bridgend County Borough Council is asking residents to think about making a real difference this year by deciding to help a young person in need.

Most children and young people will have celebrated Christmas and New Year with their families but there are others who are less fortunate and, for many reasons, are unable to live at home.

Bridgend Foster Care, the council's fostering service, has a shortage of carers and particularly needs to recruit people willing to foster siblings and teenagers.

While potential foster carers don't have to be from any particular background, they will need certain attributes to care for local vulnerable children and young people.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The number of children coming into care continues to increase which means we need more foster carers to offer stability and a loving home. We want people from all walks of life to come forward so we can find the right foster home for every child. They don't have to own their home, be in a relationship or have their own children. Foster carers simply need patience, love, time and understanding, as well as a spare bedroom and to be over 21.

"If people are making New Year's resolutions and are thinking about making positive changes in their life, I would encourage people to contact Bridgend Foster Care to help decide whether fostering is right for them."

Sian Carey, a foster carer, said: "I've been a foster carer for eight years and have so far had five placements. With three children of my own, and my husband working full time, it can be challenging but also very rewarding.

"When a child comes into your home and you can see the positive changes in them through your own guidance, it is such an overwhelming experience. I am often very proud of the children I have fostered and the sense of achievement I get as a foster carer is amazing."

Foster carers are given extensive training and full support, and receive an allowance for their role. Child fostering allowance is not taxed, and does not count against state benefits.

The fostering team will be at Sainsbury's, Bridgend on January 20, 21, 23 (from 10am-1pm) and January 27, 28, 30 (1pm-4pm) for an informal chat, and to answer any questions that people may have about fostering.

For more information on what it takes to be a foster carer, contact Bridgend Foster Care on (01656) 642674 or email bridgendfostercare@bridgend.gov.uk.

Beth Margetson will leave a 'gaping hole' in so many lives

LAST week, The GEM had the sad task of reporting the death of Beth Margetson of Porthcawl – who lost her fight against cancer.

Beth's remarkable story has been chronicled in this newspaper by Caroline Sarll, who has written the following tribute to her "inspiring, uplifting" friend.

by CAROLINE SARLL

THIS is an article I never wanted to write – and one which all of us who knew big-hearted, beautiful, benevolent, brave and, yes, battle-worn Beth Margetson, never wanted to read.

Sadly, after two and half years of fighting – to conquer her metastatic breast cancer and to achieve equity for all patients in Wales – this loving mother, wife and daughter, this feisty former midwife, qualified nurse, health visitor and lecturer, this chapel deacon, patriot (and Welsh speaker), this tireless campaigner and accomplished orator, finally passed away on January 6.

Beth has left a gaping hole.

Not only in the lives of all who met her, but first and foremost, in the lives of her immediate family: husband Chris, 16-year-old daughter, Ffion and her 87-year-old father, Peter, for whom Beth cared even in the difficult and draining last few weeks.

She lived her life with such passion, energy and compassion, that it is hard to believe that Beth is no longer with us. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Beth's devoted family and to all who knew and loved her.

It is nothing less than fitting that Beth's lasting legacy is a daughter who has inherited her mother's fighting spirit. As Ffion said in an extraordinary live interview on BBC Radio Wales, the day after Beth's death, "My mother may be dead. But she will never, ever be gone".

Ffion, who fought every step of the way with her beloved mother, has pledged to keep up the fight for justice. And I have every reason to believe that she will do just that, such was the inspiration she drew from her truly exceptional mother, who was deemed exactly the opposite by her local Health Board: not "exceptional enough" to receive a life-extending drug, Afinitor.

In the wake of David Cameron's Offa's Dyke speech last week ("the line between life and death"), pre-election posturing at its best, it is nevertheless clear that Beth was a trailblazer, highlighting our small nation's unjust deficiencies, including our lack of a Cancer Drugs Fund, in a personal and impassioned way and pre-empting the furore that is sure to unfold over the coming months. The mark of a true visionary.

How many of us can say we have made a difference in our lives? Beth Margetson did. From the day her mother tied her in her pram to Llwynypia hospital railings, in a fight against its closure, Beth's life was mapped out for her as a mould breaker.

Even though Beth died last week, the almost daily texts I received from her up until Christmas Day, demonstrated that she never "gave in" to the cancer. It simply overtook her – but she never, ever gave up fighting, never displayed an ounce of self-pity and, crucially, never gave up hope. Beth had so much that she wanted to live for – "I want to see Ffion go to university, to see her get married and have babies"– and in her trademark, tongue-in-cheek style "even get divorced!".

Beth, with nothing to lose and everything to gain, spoke out, loudly, clearly, articulately, fearlessly – and, most importantly, from the heart.

Inspired, the people of Porthcawl and beyond took up her cause: Bridgend College, where she taught Health and Social Care, her local church, Tabernacl in Fenton Place, Balkwill's the Chemist, the Hi-Tide (and countless pubs: forgive me for not mentioning you all), local businesses such as the Tattoo Parlour (Beth delivered one of the owner's children) and many, many more, individuals and institutions alike.

The last 16 months, from the day Beth turned up on my doorstep in September 2013, to tell me she had been refused the drug and to ask me to help, have been a rollercoaster ride, full of downs (the regular updates from Beth that her tumour markers had risen, or that the many rounds of chemo – she endured six – had made her terribly ill), but there were also so many "ups".

There was the jaw-droppingly frank and raw interview on BBC Radio Wales with Jason Mohammad in September 2013, the march on the Senedd ("We made sure we marched two abreast!"), the fundraising concert in the Hi-Tide, compered by Roy Noble and Owen Money and the many other fundraising events in and around Porthcawl, which Beth attended and spoke at, no matter how unwell she was feeling.

She impressed everyone she met, such was her charisma and her passion to stay alive. During the Radio Wales tribute last week, Jason Mohammad asked me if I was surprised that Beth had, so quickly, become such a public figure.

My answer? Not in the least. Blessed with the gift of rhetoric, her light shone even brighter with an audience in front of her. She had even joked in the car on the way home from her first BBC interview "That Jason had better watch out. I liked that microphone. I'll be after his job now, just wait and see!"

Beth had also talked about becoming a politician and it is our loss that this natural wordsmith, who could turn a statistic into a dream soundbite, with her pithy and intelligent observations and disarming (but oh, so welcome) honesty, will never fulfil that hope. But it is the loss of Beth the person, Beth the devoted mother, wife, daughter, friend and colleague we will all mourn the most.

Her bravery and drive, combined with her endless kindness, garnered her widespread support – and vital funds. I can still hear the laughter rippling through the room in the Hi-Tide, as she talked of Dylan the dog almost getting hold of her "£100 a pop" tablets, the Afinitor, which the fundraising eventually allowed her to access. I can hear Ffion singing 'I Dreamed A Dream', her beautiful voice soaring through the air, with Beth watching rapt and proud, full of love and buoyed by the thought of a time "when men were kind" and "hopes were high".

I can see Miss Tina's girls, elegantly dancing to 'Slipping Through My Fingers', the poignant lyrics about a mother letting her daughter go, taking on an added resonance amidst Beth's plight.

I can hear, too, as the ongoing soundtrack to this week's grief, so palpable throughout the community, Beth raising all our spirits in her controversial trip to Hanover last June, where, ignoring the naysayers, she accessed adjuvant hyperthermia treatment, not available at all in the UK (except in some trials).

"I told the clinic staff I had made them some cacen!" she quipped one day. "I thought I was saying "cakes", but it turns out they thought I was giving them poo!" That was Beth the Constant Carer, always the altruist, giving, not taking, even in her greatest hour of need.

Beth even cooked a Sunday dinner and cakes for my mother when I was away on holiday last summer, despite my protestations that it wasn't necessary. "Hush, now, Car. I'm going. I want to do it". You didn't argue with our Beth.

In Hanover, I was one of her many friends who flew out to support her and Ffion (Bev, Angela, Kay, Philippa, Linda) and was both humbled and uplifted by the experience. Humbled to see a still young woman (Beth turned 50 the day before she left) enduring the excruciating ordeal of being heated to over 40 degrees Celsius. Covered in foil, the sweat was dripping onto the bed.

Uplifted to witness her ongoing courage and defiance. "I'm visualising the cancer cells popping. I'm imagining I'm on a beach, soaking up the sun . I'm thinking Crete. All I need now is a sprig of thyme, and I'm like a Bernard Matthews turkey!".

Oh, Beth. How we are all going to miss your delicious, inimitable sense of humour. Oh, Beth. How we are all going to miss you.

Beth Margetson pictured with Roy Noble and Owen Money.
Photograph by Malcolm Nugent.

Each and every one of us will have our own unique, personal memories to take with us into the future, to keep this remarkable woman alive in our hearts and souls: "It was like she was always wrapping her arms round you", "She always went the extra mile".

Although I knew of Beth as a child (she and her parents often cooked for and visited my elderly neighbours), I have only really got to know her in these last intense 16 months – and feel privileged to have had that opportunity.

Along with her bravery, I will remember that brilliant sense of humour, her unconditional kindness, the very special time in Germany ("Tell the taxi driver I want to buy SOSSpans, Car!") , the private audience with Carwyn Jones, the trips to the BBC (Beth gave an update last September on Radio Wales) and our very last outing together to Cowbridge, just weeks before she died, for a complimentary makeover in Fich and Ramous hairdressers.

Even then, just the day after receiving a blood transfusion, Beth donned one of her many stylish outfits, sported her famous "fabulous fuchsia" lipstick and arrived bearing chocolates, not only for the hairdressing staff, but also for the staff of this newspaper, to whom she was so grateful for their ongoing support.

Beth never took anyone for granted. She was always, always grateful and repaid kindnesses by the bucketload. The last text I received from her on Christmas Day, in which she said she would try and sit at the table and eat something with the family, encompassed that hallmark gratitude: "I am so blessed to have such good family and friends".

We, likewise, are so fortunate to have known you, Beth. You touched us deeply, and also touched – and galvanised – the whole nation. You taught us all that it's okay not to take "no" for an answer.

That it is worth fighting every step of the way to stay alive. That our family and friends are our most valued and treasured "life support". That giving reaps rewards. Given six months to live in the autumn of 2012, you far outlived that prognosis. You proved that it cannot be best practice to assess life expectancy, treatment accessibility and indeed, life itself, on the basis of tables, graphs and charts.

There's that old saying, "The candle that burns twice as bright burns half as long" and Beth, how well you epitomised that. I can hear you, again, in Germany, as you lay exhausted on the bed, still smiling and saying "I'm so tired, I could sleep on a chicken's lip!".

Now you can rest, Beth, free of pain and suffering. But your lasting legacy – in Ffion, Chris, Peter and your fierce fight against unfairness – will, like your light, shine on.

ABOVE: Beth pictured with a nurse in Germany, where she received hyperthermic treatment.

You ended your voicemail message on your mobile phone with an almost afterthought-style "It's Beth", as though the caller wouldn't know who you were.

As if, Mrs Margetson. There was no one quite like you. You were, indeed, exceptional.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with your family. Rest in peace now, Beth. **Nos da.x**

Beth Margetson's funeral is on Monday, January 19. A service at Tabernacl Chapel, Fenton Place, Porthcawl, at 12.30pm will be followed by interment in Porthcawl Cemetery at 2pm.

Family flowers only but donations to the Beth Margetson Foundation, which aims to help people whose loved ones are suffering from serious illness. Dress code: Bright clothing if desired.

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ABOVE: Relaunch of Dinas Powys cinema – left to right: John Fanshaw of the Dinas Powys community cinema, Coun Val Hartrey, Coun Ian Johnson, and guest of honour Keith Hatton, vice-chair of the local Community Council.

Dinas Powys cinema re-launch proves a hit

THE relaunch of the community cinema in Dinas Powys was voted a huge success.

A large appreciative audience saw the film *Pride,* described as a historical comedy drama.

Starring Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton, it tells the story of a group of gay activists who decided to help striking miners at Onllwyn in the Swansea Valley in 1984.

The event also celebrated the new projection equipment that had been funded in part by Creative Rural Communities and by Dinas Powys Community Council. Coun Keith Hatton, vice chairman of the council, was guest of honour on the day.

There is a monthly film showing with *What We Did on Our Holidays* on February 14 starring David Tennet and Billy Connolly.

On March 14, it's *Mr Turner* which is an exploration of the last quarter century of the great, if eccentric, painter JMW Turner's life. The doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm.

On April 11, there is a children's matinee performance of *Paddington Bear.*

More details are available on the Facebook page of Dinas Powys Cinema Club.

John Fanshaw, on behalf of the community cinema, said he was delighted that the relaunch of the club had been such a success and looked forward to more great films. The audience appreciated the bar which was run by Judith Anderson and team. **CF**

Welsh Michelin chef backs Food Festival

THE Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival has announced that Michelin star chef James Sommerin will demonstrate at this year's show. which will, for the first time in its 11-year history, take place in May.

For the first time in its 11-year history, the show will take place in May, starting on Sunday, May 24, and continuing on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25.

James Sommerin, who won his Michelin star as head chef of The Crown at Whitebrook in 2007, will appear on the Monday at 12:45pm in the Demo Theatre to demonstrate his passion for food with distinct flavours and local heritage.

Welshman James and his wife Louise now own Restaurant James Sommerin at The Esplanade in Penarth.

Bar 44 and The Bear Hotel will also take to the demo stage, as well as festival favourite Anand George. Anand is the multi-award winning chef behind Cardiff's Purple Poppadom, and will be a familiar face to frequent Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival-goers, having appeared there numerous times.

In recent years, thousands have flocked to the town to sample the high quality artisan produce available, although its late-October slot has sometimes had to deal with poor weather.

It is expected that the late-May time will mean that the event will be bigger than ever.

John Davies, the festival chairman said: "We're delighted to confirm James Sommerin as a guest demonstrator at the festival, and he joins what is looking to be an exciting line-up.

"We've enjoyed a hugely successful 10 years of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival and by moving to May, when the weather will hopefully shine on us, we expect to attract a wider audience to enjoy this fantastic weekend of food and family fun."

More details about the food and drink festival can be found on the newly-launched website ***www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org***

Tickets, which cost £5 per day or £8 for the weekend, can also be purchased online for the first time with a 10 per cent discount on all pre-sale tickets. Children 12-and-under go free.

This year's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival takes place on Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25. Please visit www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

Youth Council gets off to a bright start

YOUNG people from schools and youth organisations across Barry have elected 18 young people to be their youth councillors for the town.

The youth council, known as Barry Youth Action, consists of young people aged between 11 – 18 to represent all young people in Barry. The primary objective is to work closely with Barry Town Council to ensure that the views and ideas of young people are listened to and taken into account when decisions that affect them in the town are being made.

Over the next three months, BYA members will be training to be effective youth councillors. The training will be developed and delivered by the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service which is running the youth action group as part of a joint venture with Barry Town Council.

Following the three months of training, youth councillors will begin to engage with youth issues in the town, get involved in projects and activities to help make Barry a better place for young people and play an active part in community events organised by Barry Town Council.

Being part of BYA will provide many benefits for young people in Barry. Members will accrue volunteering hours that can count towards their Welsh Baccalaureate, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Millennium Volunteer Certificates. Furthermore, being part of a youth council also enhances young people's college, university and job applications.

For more information about this exciting new project, readers can email valeyouthaction@gmail.com or phone 02920 701 254.

GE

CHARITY COFFEE

THE National Autistic Society's Cardiff and Vale branch will hold an open coffee morning at Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN on February 7 (10.30am-12pm)

Contact www.cardiff andvaleautism.org.uk or nascardiff@nas.org.uk.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'
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...And then there were two on the Ramblers' walk!

TWO Penarth and District Ramblers were lured out to join Geraint in the pouring rain at Cogan for the penultimate journey in the Festival of Winter Walks and climbing uphill to reach St Dochdwy's Church in Llandough.

Their first stop was to view the lovely carved Sutton stone Irbic Pillar Cross in the churchyard, which dates back to the 10-11th century.

Slithering downhill through muddy woodland paths and crossing Penarth Road the route through Grangemoor Park, built on an old rubbish tip, led on through Dunleavy Drive, Watkiss Way and Victoria Wharf to Pont y Werin, where one walker decided to call it a day.

Carrying on along the slippery boardwalk around Cardiff Bay and crossing Clarence Bridge to pass through Hamadryad Park and into the Wetlands Reserve, another slippery boardwalk around St David's Hotel led to Mount Stuart Square.

Rapidly passing the Mermaid Quay, the delightful terracotta Pierhead building, the Senedd, Norwegian Church, Scott Memorial and Dr Who Experience towards the barrage, suddenly a gusty wind hit them straight in the face, before pathways beside the Penarth Marina with its variety of moored boats, led them uphill and back to Cogan Leisure Centre.

NEWTON WALK

THE following day dawned bright and sunny as twelve walkers and Jodie the dog joined Joy, Bracken and Bronte at Newton on the last festival walk.

Crossing Black Rock and Traeth yr Afon beach on their journey to the fast flowing Ogmore estuary with its large flock of Canada geese and following sandy paths inland beside a raging stream, a number of wooden kissing gates led to Merthyr Mawr car park, where the path ahead was under deep water, so they deviated along the road to Ton Farm.

On crossing old stone stiles and heading uphill through fields towards Candleston Farm, only to find another deep stream was flowing across the bottom of the meadow, by partly wading then jumping across to reach more solid ground, they finally carried on uphill to a road.

Some extremely muddy footpaths at Merthyr Mawr Warren led into pretty woodland at Cwm y Gaer.

Following narrow sandy paths through bracken and heading through a housing estate, St John the Baptist Church came into view.

Tramping through the deserted churchyard and crossing the green, the group made their way back to their start point.

On January 17, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 8.5-mile moderate walk from Penmaen on Gower with lunch at the King Arthur (please notify the leader the day before if you require a pub lunch); contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

To follow the group log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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More flights from Cardiff Airport

EUROPEAN airline Flybe is to add weekly flights from Cardiff Airport to Düsseldorf to its summer schedule, with one way fares from £39.99 (including taxes and charges) available for booking at www.flybe.com.

It will operate on Saturdays between April 25 and October 3, using one of Flybe's 88-seat Embraer 175 jet aircraft.

Regional AM calls for a hospital bed review

A Conservative regional AM, Suzy Davies, has called on health chiefs to review the number of beds needed to meet a rising demand from frail and elderly patients.

It came in the wake of news that hospitals throughout the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg area have been under immense pressure as they struggle to cope with the number of patients needing treatment.

She said: "This is Groundhog Day. We have been here before. The ABMu Health Board has blamed the problem on an increase in the number of frail, elderly patients being admitted for emergency care and who need longer hospital stays than younger patients.

"They said that almost half their beds – 45 per cent – are occupied by patients aged 75 and over.

"But health boards have been ditching hospital beds in favour of more care at home for years.

"In principle, that's a good idea – but when it goes wrong, it's A&E for our elderly and then bed blocking while discharge packages are negotiated with cash-strapped social services."

Mrs Davies said that while there was no Government formula about how many beds were needed per thousand patients in Wales, it was high time that somebody sat down to do the sums.

She went on: "The Welsh Government has closed a fifth of all hospital beds in Wales over the past decade.

"This trend has to be reversed and extra beds opened up.

"It is totally wrong that last week, for several hours on one day, we had ambulances parked up with patients on board because of a log jam in A&E.

"And that log jam was caused by the fact there were no beds available to put people into.

"People are dying because our ambulances are not getting to them in time; and to be fair to ambulance bosses, how can they respond to emergency calls when so many vehicles are sitting outside hospitals?

"This problem has been going on for years and nobody is tackling the root cause which is insufficient beds.

"We need to work out a ratio within ABMu of the beds that we need in our area and then people can lobby Welsh Government to find the extra money for them.

"Their decision to cut £800m over three years from the health budget has had disastrous consequences."

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NEW MEMBERS FOR LOCAL RAINBOWS

The Rainbows' enrolment ceremony.

A COLOURFUL ceremony was held at Crossways Methodist Church Hall to mark the enrolment of the newest members of Girlguiding.

Sarah Thomas, Unit Leader, officially welcomed Evie, Isabel, Aimee, Carys, Libbie, Ruby and Amy into the 1st Barry Rainbows unit at the ceremony held recently in front of proud parents, relations and friends.

A spokesoman said: "Being a Rainbow is all about learning, developing self-confidence, building friendships and of course having lots of fun! We have 18 girls currently in the unit and they all really enjoy the weekly meetings."

If you would like to join in the fun as a girl or adult volunteer, contact Jayne Newcombe on 01446 409282.

The Welsh St Valentine...

A CHARITY evening of opera delights at Giovanni's on Park Place, Cardiff, January 21 will celebrate Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh Saint of Love's day (January 25).

According to Welsh forklore, in the 5th Century, Dwynwen fell in love with Maelon Dafodrill, who returned her feelings – but sadly, they could not be together.

Dwynwen, distraught, prays to fall out of love with him and is visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. First she wished that Maelon be thawed; second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third that she should never marry.

All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

George Thomas Hospice Care will hold an evening of fine food and opera at Giovanni's on Park Place, Cardiff, on January 21 from 7pm, with stars of Welsh Opera as they sing romantic West End hits and light opera.

Tickets £28 each, available from the charity on 029 2052 4150. See www.gthc.org.uk for further information.

INTO THE NEW YEAR – AND THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

THE Rhoose WI mixed business with pleasure at the January meeting with a cheese and wine social evening, combined with voting on the national Federation's proposed resolutions for the 2015 campaign.

President Jenny Reed greeted everyone with a toast to the New Year before business began.

Minutes were then read and approved and financial, social and welfare reports given.

Craft Club members were informed that this year's project would be knitting for the charity 'Fish and Chip Babies.'

The shortlist of the seven proposed resolutions was read.

These were: 'The Next 100 Years' (the unacceptable level of gender discrimination that still exists); 'Plant a Tree for the Future'; 'Widening the Public Access to Defibrillators'; Failing to Care' (The assessment of need in long-term care); 'Cutting Back on Food Waste'; Ending Female Genital Mutilation' ; Curbing the use of Antibiotics'.

Each member voted and the results will be submitted to the National Federation of WIs and amalgamated with the votes of all other WIs in the UK.

The chosen Resolution will be announced in May.

After the conclusion of business, thoughts turned to the social side of the evening as the members began a knockout tournament of indoor curling.

The champion curler was Brenda Roe.

The competition cup for 2014/15 was awarded to Jan Dally; the winner of the raffle was Ray Reynolds, and the monthly competition was won by Pam Jupp.

Members were reminded of events in January: Craft Club, January 15 at 2pm at 5 Odyn's Fee; Lunch club at 12.30pm on January 22 at The Three Horse Shoes, Moulton; skittles at 2pm on January 23 at Rhoose Social Club; and coffee and chat every Tuesday at 'Coffee Time', Rhoose.

The next WI meeting will be on February 5 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when the speaker will be Clara Revera, whose subject will be 'Out to Learn Willow.'

New members and visitors welcome.

JJ

Tales of the Mari Lwyd

TOMORROW (Friday, January 16) the Cowbridge Mari Lwyd group will be making their annual pilgrimage around the town, visiting various hostelries.

They will commence at the Duke at about 8.30pm, calling at the Vale of Glamorgan pub and Edmondes Arms.

A mare's skull, decorated with bells and ribbons, has been led from house to house in the depths of winter by gangs of revellers, in a tradition dating back many centuries.

The Celtic people's reverence for the horse is well known, and the mare's visit to farming families was said to bring fertility to the land in the year to come.

A white sheet attached to the skull is draped over the head and shoulders of the man who carries it, and a mechanism is usually rigged up allowing the jaw to be opened and closed to frighten the women and children!

The 'Fari' in Cowbridge, which nowadays visits pubs in the town early in January, has coloured plastic eye sockets in front of flashing light bulbs to give an eerie effect!

Traditionally, Mari was led by a man wearing a top hat or bowler, called the Sergeant, and they were joined by a gang of men and sometimes boys.

Mari knocked on the door of the farmhouse, and the men would sing: "Wel, dyma ni'n dwad, gyfeillion diniwad, i ofyn 'sgawn gannad i ganu" ("Well, here we come, innocent friend, to ask permission to sing").

Inside the house, the family, and sometimes the local bard who'd been bribed with beer to help out, would reply in verse.

A sung dialogue would then ensue in which the Fari would demand access and the family refuse, until no-one could invent any more verses.

At this point, they would open the door and the group be plied with food and drink.

Legend has it that on one occasion, both groups had such prolific poets that the bardic duel continued thoroughout the night, and Mari didn't gain entry until dawn!

The custom existed in Cowbridge until the 1930s, with the verses by then sung in English.

Mr Bill Lewis, who arranged the modern Mari's antics in the town each year, told how he and other youngsters followed the revellers across the fields from farm to farm.

He remembered one of the verses he sang, which corresponds to one of the traditional Welsh verses: "Through bushes and briars, O'er mountains and mires, We wish you a happy new year."

In Pencoed, the Fari was still visiting farms in the area in the 1960s and the village of Llangynwyd is known to have a long tradition of Mari Lwyd visits.

In Monmouthshire in the 19th century, the custom was encouraged by Lady Llanover, and a hologram-style depiction of the Fari Lwyd remains above the door of the old post office in the village of Llanover.

MP SAYS 'SHOP AROUND FOR FUEL PRICES'

THE VALE Conservative MP Alun Cairns said this week that Vale residents are paying over the odds for petrol and heating oil and that he had raised the matter with the Chancellor, who has called on fuel companies to pass on the reduction in oil prices to consumers.

"Petrol prices in the Vale can be two or three pence higher than those in Cardiff and Swansea.

"The price differences for heating oil between some suppliers can be stark, as much as £50-60 on 1,000 litres," the MP said.

He is recommending that consumers "shop around and switch to a cheaper supplier to save money".

"Heating oil prices by some suppliers to the Vale have not reduced since mid-December. This is despite the fact that the price of oil has fallen dramatically.

"The price per litre in December for heating oil was 44 pence, a level that remained the same earlier this week," he added.

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Out and About with The GEM

Excellent performances shine in Miller's slow-burning Foxcatcher...

THOSE who had pegged Channing Tatum as being a lunk-headed action star would have been surprised when he displayed his aptitude for comedy in both *21 Jump Street* and last year's sequel.

Having shown a funny bone beneath his muscles, Tatum attempts to show he is capable of deeper, more dramatic roles in Bennett Miller's *Foxcatcher*.

Tatum plays Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz in this true-life tale. Along with his brother David (Mark Ruffalo), he joins up with 'Team Foxcatcher', led by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont (played by Steve Carell) for the build-up to the 1988 Olympics; but this union soon turns sour and relationships deteriorate with terrible consequences...

Director Bennett Miller has shown a flair for bringing true-life stories to the big screen, having told the story of Truman Capote's relationship with killer Perry Smith in *Capote*, and how Billy Beane upset the baseball applecart in *Moneyball*, a sports film that was more focused on the mathematics of sport than actual on field activity.

Foxcatcher lands somewhere between these two, the film having the backdrop of a sports biopic, a tale of battling to achieve greatness and the toll it takes on individuals, with a study of relationships and how those relationships develop and crumble through both internal and external events.

Miller is a director who appears capable of drawing exemplary performances from his cast (having achieved three Oscar nominations and one win from his previous films), but he also has the ability to focus on the minutiae of characters, studying them and allowing the cracks to appear slowly but surely. Both of these

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

talents are to the fore in *Foxcatcher*, the film a slow-burning, atmospheric piece whose lack of urgency does occasionally lead the story to wane, but showcases some truly incredible performances.

Miller's direction is measured and mannered, cold and clinical; you feel he has invested in these characters less on an emotional level and more on an observational level, his camera lingering on close-ups of the actors who, more often than not, are framed in conversation one-on-one.

He is unhurried and focuses on the characters moving the story along, the camera lapping up the relationship of John and Mark, admiration becoming something more and more dysfunctional, and being muddied even further when David unwittingly becomes part of John's psychological game.

The characters of John and Mark are the key pieces in Miller's story, with the parallels of their lives making them uncomfortable brothers in arms (Mark had no friends growing up, Johns best friend was paid by his mother), the circumstances of their lives the real difference with each longing for what they think the other has.

But as the relationship develops, lines are crossed, wittingly or unwittingly, and the film becomes a study in the slow breakdown of it, Miller recording events as they unfold with a detached eye.

It's a home for some incredible performances, with both Steve Carell and Channing Tatum playing against type and delivering incredible turns. Carell, in particular, gives the character of Du Pont an air of eerie creepiness, a feeling that all isn't right; while the script gives you the bare bones of his backstory, Carell fills in the blanks with a scary stillness.

Tatum may be on slightly more familiar turf as a physical specimen, but he gives the character of Mark tremendous depth, essaying his highs and lows with incredible guts. Both characters are slowly unwinding into the depths of something darker, but while Carell finds the unsettling behaviour of Du Pont, Tatum's is the more 'showy' role as Du Pont's mind games unravel.

Mark Ruffalo plays the third wheel of the acting triumvirate, but his performance is no less noteworthy, if not granted any grandstanding moment. David is the character least affected or troubled, so Ruffalo's quiet turn of conviction, finding himself caught between the troubles of Mark and John, is impressive if less stand-out than the other turns.

The languid and atmospheric pace of the film does annoy at times, as the film would perhaps benefit from a tighter, less self-indulgent edit. Miller takes a long time to tell the story, but any issues as regards pacing can be overlooked thanks to a trio of excellent performances and an intriguing story that makes *Foxcatcher* a superb film.

VERDICT: It's three for three for Bennett Miller, as *Foxcatcher* maintains the director's hot streak, the true-life story brought vividly to the screen. Its pacing may feel slow, but it does allow Miller to bring out wonderful, against-type performances from Steve Carell and Channing Tatum, and a solid turn from the always-dependable Mark Ruffalo, which make it a tremendous piece of work.

Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Moneyball* (2011), *The Aviator* (2004).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D861:

- **£2,000:** 554123.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 556059, 800788, 114125, 754731, 423997, 435676, 275102, 763051, 433788, 641968, 965791, 369313, 574223, 959118, 562360, 478540, 570123, 691943, 634396, 243302.
- **£5:** 404188, 221718, 716894, 583546, 292140, 674306, 399060, 684519, 531920, 135876, 716290, 892247, 828307, 923547, 774959, 135058, 101644, 661094, 147064, 893443, 192643, 122489, 594559, 495926, 386516, 719996, 997300, 542482, 742750, 641587, 549740, 410489, 800899, 389089, 178439, 578963, 271367, 605743, 733390, 651499, 462604, 921399, 113295, 456590, 806085, 817568, 858510, 804913, 646773, 371025, 133983, 431458, 711982, 899661, 817283, 778428, 202957, 191222, 424957, 69.

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For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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FILM REVIEW EXTRA

Into The Woods is hard work, but it's really worth the effort

THE Disney version of Stephen Sondheim's musical fairy tale *Into The Woods,* arrives in this country after doing good box office in America, and with a mix of three and four-star reviews (and one mean-spirited one from Mark Kermode!) *writes Philip Irwin*.

It's also Meryl Streep's second musical, but this one is as far away from *Mama Mia* as you can get. Whereas the Abba-inspired mega hit was a lightweight story, liberally sprinkled with well-known songs that the audience could wallow in, Sondheim's tale demands pretty intense concentration.

The story is not told simply by the dialogue between songs. Almost every song moves the story on, and comments on the dilemmas and tough choices that the characters face.

Even though the cast do a great job of putting those songs across, it is still 125 minutes of complex story telling.

The show takes several well-known fairy tales: Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood and weaves them together with the story of a baker and his wife, and their attempt to lift a witch's curse.

As with all good fairy tales, everything ends happily ever after – until you check your watch and discover there is another 40 minutes to go.

For the rest of the film, the cast has to deal with the consequences of their actions in part one – and the audience learn that there is no happy ever after

There is a fair bit of light relief, because the show is full of sharp one liners that echo Woody Allen at his best, and when the two handsome princes, Chris Pine and Billy Magnusson, sing 'Agony' - their tale of unrequited love for respectively, Cinderella and Rapunzel, the audience was roaring.

I can't think of a weak performance. Emily Blunt as the baker's wife is sharp, sympathetic, and constantly nonplussed by the strange goings on, but finds a place in the audience's collectve heart.

Anna Kendrick is excellent as a conflicted Cinderella, flattered by the Prince's attentions but all the time knowing that it is not really her thing.

Meryl Streep had a stronger voice than I expected, and is a really fine witch, while Lilla Crawford and Daniel Huttlestone are delightful as Red Riding Hood and Jack.

As the wolf, Johnny Depp was...Johnny Depp, with perhaps a bit too much Captain Jack Sparrow, while James Corden was almost perfect as the baker. I felt sorry for James because the baker has a show-stopping number – 'No More' – towards the end of the show which has been cut to keep the running time to 125 minutes!

Rob Marshall's direction delivers a film that is beautiful but dark in tone, using the forest to create a claustrophobic atmosphere that is lifted only when the camera soars upward, into the sky to show the full sweep of this magic kingdom.

It was filmed in Shepperton Studios, and also in ancient forests near Windsor Castle, so there is a strong British element. As well as James Corden and Emily Blunt, well-known British thespians pop up in a lot of the minor roles.

The success of *Les Miserables* on film indicates that there is an audience out there for demanding shows such as *Into The Woods*.

The fact that it has done good business in the USA suggests that it could be the case here. It's a show that has so much to say about the human condition that it would be good to see it succeed in the UK too.

Just don't go there expecting an easy ride!

PHILIP IRWIN

What's on and where?

Meeting is cancelled

THE Cowbridge Senior Citizens' meeting due to be held today (January 15) at the town hall, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be in February.

Photo display

A photo exhibition by Dr Christine Evans, has opened at Travellers Café/gallery on platform 1 at Barry railway station.

The café/gallery is run by Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan with the help of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists and is open weekdays from 7am until noon.

The exhibition runs until February 27.

Jazz weekend

VALE Jazz weekend organisers are planning a 'battle of the bands' event for young people on Saturday (June 20) at the Barry Memo, open to all under the age of 16.

The group is seeking sponsors for the event, said Gemma Collard of Vale Jazz.

"In addition to the plans for 20 bands to play in 10 venues across the town, we would also like to make our event educational and have young people from all backgrounds, including schools, involved."

She can be contacted at misscollard@iCloud.com.

Baruc Artist of the Year

THE Baruc Art Group Artist of the Year Exhibition Shield was presented recently to Jan Parsons, who was voted the winner by public vote for her pastel painting 'Puss' at the October 2014 exhibition.

Who wants to sing with Only Boys Aloud?

WELSH choir Only Boys Aloud is celebrating its fifth birthday with a major recruitment drive for young singers aged 14 – 19.

It was first put together for the National Eisteddfod in 2010, with a podium finish in *Britain's Got Talent*, a performance in front of millions more during the *X Factor* final, a Christmas album, and appearances everywhere – from the Olympics to Buckingham Palace.

Tim Rhys-Evans, OBA music director and artistic director of The ALOUD Charity, said: "With such destructive cuts to music services for young people, it is more important than ever that we offer opportunities to youngsters to experience the positive powers and exhilaration of communal singing.

"OBA provides a safe, fun environment for boys of all singing abilities to experience the highs, joy and banter that being part of a choir can bring."

The choir joined forces with their mentors Only Men Aloud at St David's Hall, Cardiff in a special concert before Christmas.

It will be performing at the opening concert of the Urdd Eisteddfod in May, a big birthday party in the summer, and a large-scale concert at the Wales Millennium Centre in November, with Only Men Aloud and male voice choirs from across Wales, to celebrate 1,000 years of Welsh music for male voices.

• *Auditions take place in Barry on Tuesday, January 20 – at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg at 8.40am; and at the St Richard Gwyn High School at 1.30pm*.

Let us know what's on and where in your area - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk, and share your events!

Inspirational Sasha wins major award

AN awards night has been held at The Vale Parent and Child Homework Support Club.

A spokeswoman told The GEM: "The club was founded two and a half years ago, starting with just two children as a project to see if we could make a difference to attainment levels.

"We found that we made a massive impact socially as well as academically.

"The aim of the club is to support as many children with learning difficulties as possible; at present we have 26 children on the register.

"The difficulties range from relatively mild to complex array of difficulties. We have many children with medical conditions and development delay conditions.

"A specialist teacher, Mrs Hayley Rees, and a team of dedicated volunteers support the children academically and socially.

"The first awards night took place recently.

"Our major award was given to an amazing young lady, Sasha Williams who was seriously injured in the Rhoose school crash in June 2013.

"Sasha was left with a brain injury after the accident, Sasha has fought to remain on target with her education and she is admired for supporting younger members of the club with their work.

"Sasha is an inspiration, she won the rising star award and the most improved child in her age group.

"Sasha was presented her awards by Councillor Jeff James. We are very proud of Sasha and all the children for working incredibly hard."

The spokeswoman explained: "The club has linked with Disability Advice Project UK this summer and many of our volunteers and parents have completed courses. A total of 28 people attended IT and first aid courses.

"We are very proud of the support we give to lifelong learning 10 of the 28 are now continuing their leaning with Open University courses. Courses that fit around their caring roles."

A raffle took place to raise much needed funds for the club.

For further information on the The Parent/ Child Homework Support Club, please contact Cath on 01446 711041.

ABOVE: The Vale Parent and Child Homework Support Club award-winners.

Barry at War Group opens doors to public

ABOVE: *Glen Booker and Paul Tracy are seen here with early visitors, local AM Jane Hutt and Coun Chris Elmore.*

THE new chairman of Barry at War Volunteer Group, local historian Glen Booker, opened the doors to the public with his team of volunteers last Sunday at their Barry Island station museum.

The group is currently planning its Barry at War weekend in June with John Buxton of the Barry Railway.

It will be welcoming schools to the museum.

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Vale bridge

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge club for January 12 are as follows:

First, Julia Evans and Cherry Cadwallader 66.04 per cent; second, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 63.07; third John Beard and Liam Sheridan 60.85.

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Pleasure Park open by Easter?

A NEW Barry Island Pleasure Park could be up and running by Easter – if Vale planners respond to calls by landowners and developers.

Local MP Alun Cairns said he had brought fairground operator, Henry Danter and representatives of site owners, Hillco, together on Barry Island last Thursday to meet cabinet member Eric Pickles MP.

The site meeting was also attended by Paul Haley of Pride in Barry and Dennis Harkus of Focus Barry.

During the meeting, Mr Danter, who currently runs fairgrounds at Symonds Yat near Ross on Wye and Stourport, Worcestershire, said that he would invest £2million over the next year, and £20million over the next five years. He said it was essential the first phase would be up and running by Easter, which is early April.

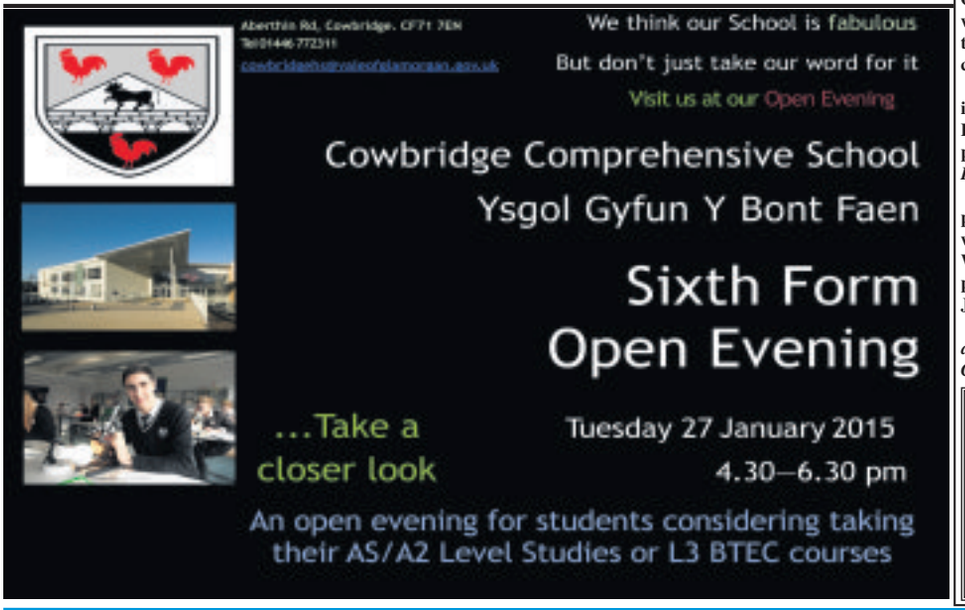
Mr Danter explained: "I want to clear the site and bring 10 new rides by Easter. This is a challenge, but with support from the planners, I know we can do it. I will also bring a new Log Flume to Barry Island, but that will take a little longer."

Mr Cairns said: "Henry Danter's enthusiasm was infectious. The visit from Eric Pickles and others has helped to create a renewed momentum which needs to be maintained by the Vale Council.

"The council has responded positively so far. I was very pleased that Dennis Harkus from Focus Barry was present, as well as Paul Haley from Pride in Barry. It is essential that the community are kept involved with these plans."

Mr Cairns told The GEM that the project is able to come together by converting the Dolphin into retail space on the ground floor, with apartments above, and by using the funding to release the funfair site.

Mr Danter added: "The essential factor in this is to get agreement at the February meeting. Without it, we will lose Easter and the opportunity to attract thousands of visitors."



CHOIR TO BENEFIT!

COR Bro Ogwr will be paying special attention on Friday, January 23, in the Tabernacl Church, Bridgend, where they have their regular rehearsals.

Glenn Crooks, their talented accompanist and conductor Nick Bromilow, fresh from the success of his first concert with Cor Bro Ogwr, in December, will be giving a recital to raise funds for the choir.

Nick, whose main instrument is the French horn, will be playing Mozart's *3rd Horn Concerto*.

Glenn will be performing organ works by Bach and Walton, and piano pieces by Debussy and John Ireland.

Tickets £8 at the door; 7pm, Tabernacl Church, Derwen Road.

Glenn Crooks and Nick Bromilow.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

Brew up for heart charity!

LOCAL residents are being urged to get together with friends, family or colleagues – and hold a tea party or coffee morning for the Welsh Hearts charity.

A spokeswoman said. "Why not have a cake sale at school or in the office, or a coffee morning or tea party involving friends and family and raise much needed funds during the official Wales' Biggest Tea Party month from March 1-31 or any time during the spring," "All money raised in Wales is spent in Wales on heart research, funding defibrillators in the local community, CPR training in secondary schools and organisations, and heart screening sessions."

To register the your Wales' Biggest Tea Party fundraising pack, which contains everything from invitations, ideas, posters to stickers and balloons, contact 02920 786521 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org, or down load a fundraising pack http://welshhearts.org/teaparty.

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'A TALENTED PLAYER AND TOP MAN'

Obituary: Paul Morgan, Pencoed

FORMER Wales Rugby League international, an active rugby player of both codes and local cricket player, Paul Morgan, has sadly died aged 40, following a short illness, *writes IAN GOLDEN*.

Paul, from Pencoed, leaves a wife Heidi, two sons, Tyler and Harry, and daughter Maddison.

He won two full Welsh Rugby League caps and was heritage player number 432. After playing for Pencoed at youth levels, he made his break into first class rugby union in 1995 when studying at Brunel University in London, turning out for London Welsh.

On moving back to Wales in 1999, he signed for Whitland RFC, before joining his first Welsh Premiership club in Aberavon in 2000, when he made a two-try debut against Walsall at the Talbot Athletic Ground on August 20.

He played regularly until his last game against Neath at the Gnoll on September 16, 2004, that being his 91st appearance. He scored 30 tries and had a brief spell at Llanharan in 2002.

In 2003, he tried his hand at Rugby League due to the Wizards' link with new Welsh Conference side Aberavon Fighting Irish and in 2004 won his first Wales Dragonhearts (the A side in Wales Rugby League) cap.

He joined rivals Bridgend Blue Bulls RLFC in 2005 and scored a hat-trick of tries in their Harry Jepson Trophy Final at the end of the season. This, and his performances throughout the year, earned him selection for the full Wales side, winning two caps – the first against Ireland in Dublin and the second against France in the 2005 Rugby League European Cup Final in Carcassonne.

He was then snapped up for the first ever Celtic Crusaders squad in 2006. He made 30 appearances on the wing scoring 16 tries, but departed before the 2007 campaign.

However, his affiliation with Rugby League didn't end there. He returned to Bridgend Blue Bulls and won more Dragonhearts caps up until 2009, while in 2013 he helped to organise the main shirt sponsorship of South Wales Scorpions RLFC.

Before his Crusaders spell, he played eight games with Maesteg at the start of their 2005-06 season and following his year in professional Rugby League, he spent a year at Bridgend Ravens then went back to his local club Pencoed, playing union in the winter and league in the summer for a further three years.

In 2009, he moved into coaching and spent two years each with Neath Athletic and Aberavon Quins.

He was also a keen cricketer and played for a number of years at Pencoed Cricket Club, recently as captain.

Paul was loved by all in the Welsh sporting community. He is the first Celtic Crusaders' first team player from the club's six-year history to lose his life.

A selection of the hundreds of tributes already given to Paul...

"I AM extremely saddened by the tragic news about Paul's death. He was an excellent servant of Aberavon RFC and a key player during a highly successful period in the club's history. His time in Rugby League saw him win two full caps for his country and help the Celtic Crusaders achieve an unprecedented rise to Super League status.

"He could talk a glass eye to sleep and was the ultimate optimist; someone who always saw that the glass was half full and never half empty. He will be badly missed by his family, his colleagues, former team mates, and many friends."

Chris O'Callaghan – former chief executive of both Aberavon Wizards RFC and Celtic Crusaders RLFC.

"HAD the great pleasure of knowing you as a friend, coach, player and as your skipper. Always wanted to play rugby the right way that resulted in Nathan Flynn using all his moves down Aberavon Greenstars.

"Never one to shy away from voicing his opinion, even if it was''t what people wanted to hear, hence the fact we got on so well! His passion about winning resulted in him being misunderstood! Winning sexy was the only option."

James Davies, former team-mate at Aberavon Quins RFC and Aberavon Fighting Irish RLFC.

"I'M devastated about the news to be honest. Having known Paul (and his family, especially his mum and dad) since he was a youngster coming through the ranks at Pencoed, he will be missed by all who knew him. A great trainer, a great player and a great bloke. Thoughts are with Heidi and the rest of the family at this tough time."

Wayne Hall, friend and team manager at Bridgend Ravens

"HE was always a character, sometimes a show off but had heart of gold and always gave 100 per cent for every team he played with. Simply a lovely guy who lit up the dressing room."

Simon Green, former colleague from Bridgend Blue Bulls RLFC.

"DEVASTATING news, all the players and members of Neath Athletic RFC, would like to offer our condolences to Paul's family. A talented player and coach and also a top bloke. Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time. RIP Paul."

Mark Thomas, former colleague from Neath Athletic RFC.

"SO sad to hear of the passing of my mate Paul Morgan – my first housemate in Wales. Took me in and showed me the ropes. Great bloke, great sense of humour. RIP butt !!"

Chris Beasley, former team-mate at Celtic Crusaders RLFC.

"It was a shock to hear the news of Paul Morgan (Pencoed cricket captain) passing. Words cannot express my sadness, beautiful memories with you in the field! RIP"

Thasan Subramaniam, former team-mate at Pencoed Cricket.

"On behalf of Pencoed cricket, my condolences go to Paul's family and friends. We had some great times together on the field. RIP Paul. Love from all his cricket family!"

Layton Williams, Pencoed Cricket Club.

"SO sorry to hear the terrible news. My condolences to the family. A big character for Wales Rugby League. It was a pleasure to work with Paul. RIP."

Wayne Williams, his former coach with Wales Dragonhearts RL.

"ABSOLUTELY gutted to hear the news about Paul Morgan. It was a privilege to play alongside him with the Bulls, Crusaders and Maesteg. Another top bloke taken too young. Thoughts are with his family. RIP mate."

Hywel Davies, fellow former Wales Rugby League international.

"VERY sad news about my mate and team mate in various sides, Paul Morgan. Take stock of what you have and try not to moan about trivial things, more important things in life."

Lenny Woodard, played alongside him with Aberavon Wizards, London Welsh, Bridgend Blue Bulls, Celtic Crusaders and Wales RL.

BRIDES & GROOMS

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THE cold, wet and cloudy weather that we all associate with January and February does have a silver lining – it is the ideal time to plan and research that dream wedding.

Whether you fancy a quiet family get-together with the minimum of fuss, or a spectacular affair that aims to make a real statement, it is essential to start researching all the elements that need to come together for that dream occasion.

As the weather is unlikely to be suitable for pleasant walks, it means that the bride and groom can get out and about in their car to look, for instance, at potential venues.

Brochures are a great help, of course, but actually visiting somewhere that you like the look of can help enormously with the planning.

Small details that are easily glossed over on a website become apparent when you are there in the flesh, and this can help make the wedding go smoothly.

For instance, if elderly relatives are invited, how easily can they get around?

Will it be necessary to make some advance arrangements for anyone with a mobility problem? Thinking ahead can prevent many awkward problems.

Here at The GEM, many of our news photographers do weddings, and one issue that occurs surprisingly often is a simple one:

Does the venue have a suitable backdrop for photos of the happy couple and guests?

It's all very well to choose your favourite pub for the occasion, but it spoils the moment if the bride and groom have to trek half a mile for somewhere scenic.

Again, if the weather lets you down and its blowing a gale, is there a plan B – perhaps somewhere sheltered that still provides an attractive setting?

The perfect wedding is not so much about the grand design, it's about spotting those unexpected pitfalls and dealing with them in advance.

A visit to a potential venue can help things turn out perfect – so keep that in mind when you are making those wedding plans!

PI

Could US trend catch on here?

THEY say that Britain often follows fashions and social trends that are popular in America – just think of Hallowe'en or the more recent 'Black Friday' retail day.

So, could a long-gone tradition in weddings which is making a comeback in the States, find its way across the pond?

What tradition? Well, it is one where the bride and groom exchange wedding presents – and no, the engagement ring does not count!

"Gifts should come from the heart," says WeddingChannel.com, but that phrase covers a lot of ground.

Therefore, here are some tips to keep in mind whether the happy couple decide on some type of jewellery (the traditional and most popular choice) or something else entirely.

• Practicality has its place, but not here. Etiquette governs that gifts are exchanged – the night before the wedding, the morning of the ceremony, or before you leave on your honeymoon.

You can see how this has the potential for disaster if the groom's idea of practical is, say, a toaster.

• Personal is appreciated. One of the best examples quoted is a groom-to-be who had a photographer secretly capture the moment he proposed in New York's Central Park, and then presented the picture to his bride on the day of their wedding!

The downside, of course, is that pulling off something like this requires imagination – and planning!

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BRIDES & GROOMS

TURN TO PAGE 22 FOR A PROFILE OF EMMA-KATE FRANCIS AND MORE!

Browsing at Tulip Bridal in Barry!

ABOVE and ABOVE LEFT: Tulip Bridal in Barry offers a wide range of wedding gowns and accessories.

What options are there in terms of wedding location?

FOR many people a church is the ideal place to make their wedding vows, but there are other locations in which marriages take place.

Many people are vaguely aware that there are alternatives to the traditional church wedding, so what are some of the options?

Well, the most obvious is a register office. In the Vale, that means the Civic Offices on Holton Road; in Bridgend county borough, that means the Civic Offices in Angel Street.

Then there are premises approved by the local authority such hotels.

If one of the partners is housebound, the ceremony can take place in their home.

In cases in which a partner is seriously ill and not expected to recover, a wedding can take place in hospital.

Naval, military or air force chapels are also licensed.

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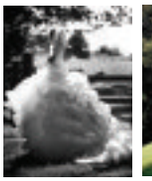

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Emma-Kate Francis IN PROFILE…

Who are you and what do you do?

EMMA-KATE FRANCIS is renowned for designing beautiful, romantic jewellery, handcrafted at her boutique atelier in Cowbridge, Wales.

She her team strive to make top quality pieces made with special care and attention to detail. There are several aspects to Emma-Kate's jewellery designs; bespoke, prét-â-porter and bridal. Her mission is to create timeless and elegant investment pieces of jewellery that her customers can treasure: "I wouldn't make it if I wouldn't wear it", she advocates.

Emma-Kate is passionate about quality in design, materials, production and above all providing a great personal service.

Where are you located/where do you ship to?

HER jewellery boutique situated in the Vale market town of Cowbridge is a showcase for her work and provides a unique place for clients to visit and see work in action at the bench.

Emma-Kate's website, *emmakatefrancis.com* further provides a portal for people all around the world to view her current collections where they can also purchase direct.

Her pret-a-porter collections can be dispatched in one to two days and guaranteed next day delivery within the UK.

How did your business come about?

EMMA-KATE hails from Brighton and is a classically-trained silversmith with a MA from the Royal College of Art. After graduating, she met a Welshman in London and fell in love, so decided to move to Wales in 2008 and set up her own jewellery business.

Having been a bride in 2013, she empathises with her bridal clients: "It can be a really stressful time and so I try and make the experience of buying or commissioning jewellery really enjoyable and honest from the start."

How would you describe your signature style?

EMMA-KATE'S nature is embodied in the style of jewellery she creates, inspired by her love of nature and Art Nouveau.

What makes your designs special?

EACH piece of Emma-Kate's jewellery starts life at her bench, when she creates models until she is fully satisfied with the design: "I might doodle a design, but it is actually when I get my hands on a piece of metal or wax that I really start to have fun and get creative."

Prices start from £20 for freshwater pearl studs, bespoke pieces start from £250, and wedding rings an average of £1,000.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

Junior rugby opportunities

PENCOED mini RFC under-7s to under-11s are recruiting new players.

Bring your next Welsh squad player to a training taster session on Tuesday evening, 6pm – 7pm at Pencoed college on the brand new 3G pitch.

For further information contact Chris Northrop on 07966 333 236 or email CN@ANSUPPLIES.CO.UK.

Trust meets

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust will meet at The Duke, Cowbridge at 7.30pm on January 21 when David Salter will talk about collecting postcards.

Floral AGM

THE annual general meeting of Barry Floral Society will be held at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, on Tuesday, January 27 at 2.15pm, when details of the club's programme for 2015 will be revealed and the charity of the year chosen. New members welcome.

Computer workshops

WORKSHOPS are being held in libraries across Bridgend county borough to provide local people with help and advice on using computers and the internet.

Working in partnership with communities, Bridgend Information and Library Service is offering the 'digital literacy' sessions. It says residents attending the workshops will be able to gain confidence in using the internet, for shopping, comparing energy suppliers, or planning and booking holidays. They will also be helped to search for and apply for jobs online.

Adult courses

STARTING this month, adult courses on offer from Bridgend County Borough Council cover arts and crafts, garden design, childcare, lipreading and Welsh. A full list of the courses can be found on the website – *www.aclbridgend.co.uk*.

Choir's two charity dates

BRIDGEND Male Choir will present a concert on February 14 at 7pm in Bethlehem Church Life Centre at Cefn Cribwr, supporting Prostate Wales/Cymru along with Parc & Dare Brass Band.

Tickets, £5 are available at the BCLC venue on tel 745655; Pyle Post Office; Porters Estate Agents, Bridgend and choir secretary Gareth Reese (07773 170373.

The choir has a second charity concert on February 20 at Wells Cathedral. This concert supports the local St Margaret's Hospice and is generously sponsored by Wells Reclamation. In addition to Bridgend Male Choir the congregation will be entertained by three soloists and the choir's own organ soloist, Scott Williams. Tickets £12, available from the cathedral box office.

Pencoed meeting

PENCOED Town and District Twinning Association will hold a public meeting followed by the AGM on February 25 at 7.30pm at Pencoed Miners' Welfare hall.

Further information on the activities of the Twinning Association is available from secretary Wendy McDonald at eric.mcdonald012@btinternet.com (phone 01656 865633).

New Venue for Cancer support group

BREASTFRIENDS (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group is changing the venue where members meet.

In future, meetings will be held in the Masonic Hall, Broad Street Barry. The first meeting is on Friday, January 16 at 2pm.

The group meets on the third Friday of every month and meetings are open to anyone who has had a breast cancer diagnosis and would like to meet others in the same boat to share ideas and for support.

For more information, phone Pam on 07919 035658.

Tribute held for Peter at hockey match

PENARTH Hockey Club's Second XI held on under late pressure to secure a fifth game without defeat to strengthen their position in the Davis Wood Hockey League, beating Llanishen & Caerphilly 'B' 2-1.

The game was preceded by an immaculately observed minute of silence for Penarth hockey and cricket stalwart Peter Hardwick, who passed away shortly before Christmas.

Having ended the first half of the league season with back-to-back 2-2 draws, Penarth's 2nd XI went into the first game of part two hoping to confirm their positional superiority over old rivals Llanishen & Caerphilly, while remaining wary of the goalless encounter they had shared back in week three.

With several key players available for the first time in several weeks, Penarth were spoiled for choice when it came to naming their squad, welcoming back goalkeeper Jason Harris, defensive midfielder Richard Bromiley and the vastly experienced Dave Thomas.

It began with an unfamiliar line-up taking to the field, as the home side decided to keep its big guns warm on the sidelines on what was a blustery day at Barry Sports Centre.

Despite the changes, Penarth started strongly, taking the game to a young Llan & Caer side, with Tom Parkinson, in particular, making inroads towards the visitors' 'D'. As usual, however, it took several missed efforts on goal before the Vale side finally opened the scoring, with Dave Watkins breaking the deadlock shortly before the quarter hour mark.

Following a round of mass substitutions, Penarth took a little time to settle and came under their first real pressure of the game, but weathered the storm to take possession back to the other end of the field, where a series of penalty corners eventually saw Thomas double the lead with a deft shot into the far corner.

Although the visitors' youth contingent were largely contained by Penarth's veterans, Llan & Caer remained a threat thanks to their own elder statesmen, and gradually eased their way back into the came, firing home a penalty corner of their own to reduce the deficit shortly before the interval.

Knowing that a couple of quick strikes after the break could end the game as a contest, Penarth started strongly, with Graeme Jones and Ian Smith providing options on the flanks.

However, just as had been the case at Hawthorn earlier in the campaign, the two sides negated each other for the entire 35 minutes, producing a third scoreless period of their 2014-15 rivalry.

Penarth resisted some late Llan & Caer pressure, thanks in no small part to Harris between the sticks, and emerged with a welcome 2-1 win that cements their seventh position in De Cymru 2.

While the Seconds travel to Whitchurch this weekend, the First XI returns from a lengthy break to host Cardiff & Met 'C' at Barry on Saturday (January 17).

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Tory forum focuses on health issues

CONSERVATIVE Regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, reported this week that he had held a "positive and productive" forum with local health stakeholders on a long-term strategy to address issues in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.

It included unscheduled care and staff recruitment and retention issues and was attended by organisations including representatives of the British Medical Association, Royal College of Nursing, and local health board.

The Welsh Tory Leader said: "In spite of the hard work of Welsh NHS staff, Vale residents accessing NHS services over the winter period have faced long waits and cancelled appointments.

"Some of this has been the result of traditional winter pressures; however, there are also systemic issues to address and chronic under-funding by Labour has taken its toll on the Welsh NHS," he claimed.

"The forum we held this week identified many of these issues and we will be bringing forward a series of practical solutions to reduce pressure on frontline staff in Cardiff and Vale."

Fan needs a home!

FAN is a 9 year old Border Collie, who has found herself back in kennels through no fault of her own.

She is quite typical of a working sheepdog; sensitive and worried, but strong.

Fan does mix with other dogs, although she is again a bit worried and would prefer her own space – she would be best as an only dog.

She enjoys her walks, and is happiest in a quiet spot.

She is an affectionate girl who would be ideal for an active home, with a patient collie-experienced owner who will give her time to settle in. Children in the home will need to be 14 years and over.

If you can offer Fan a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12-4pm every day except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN

Concern grows for missing man (47)

SOUTH Wales Police are "increasingly concerned" for the welfare of Adrian Edwards (47) last seen at University Hospital, Llandough at 4pm on Monday, January 5.

He is described as white, 6ft 2ins tall, of medium build with shaven hair. He has 'ADE' tattooed on the side of his neck and was wearing a blue/grey jacket with blue jeans and white trainers with blue edging.

Anyone who has information is asked to call police on 101, quoting reference number 1500005594. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111.

Adrian Edwards.

COLWINSTON RESIDENTS SET TO OPPOSE REDROW HOUSING PLAN

by PHILIP IRWIN

RESIDENTS in Colwinston have submitted a rapid response to plans to build 64 homes in the village but are concerned that their views will not be taken fully into account when the planning committee meets tonight (Thursday).

The community council has been spearheading the opposition to an application by Redrow Homes to build 64 homes on a field close to the village school.

Matters came to a head in early December when council planning officers released details of an amended application by Redrow, and this time the officers recommended that the plan should be passed.

The chairman of Colwinston Community Council, Geoff Bates, explained: "The field where the houses are planned floods regularly, and the plans we saw in December had an "infiltration basin soakaway" – basically a pond – in the middle of the site.

"The planners seemed happy and were now recommending that it should go ahead, but we were not.

"The village has had five documented instances of flooding since 1994, and adding 64 homes to a village with 130 at the moment can only increase that risk.

"Therefore, we ordered a hydrology report on the proposed new system, and it raises serious questions about how effective the proposed system will be.

"We want to be sure that the councillors on the planning committee have time to consider this report deferring the decision would make more sense."

Mr Bates stressed that the community council were not making a 'NIMBY' objection to the plans. He said that the council had supported plans for Colwinston in the past – in particular one that was on higher ground where there was no issue with flooding.

He went on: "We want more housing – in particular affordable housing – because we want our children to be able to afford a home here.

"Colwinston has enough half-million pound homes."

This point highlights another objection made by the community council – that Redrow have been given a very good deal.

Mr Bates said: "The Vale Council criteria is that 35 per cent of housing should be "affordable" but Redrow have been told that 25 per cent is acceptable, which seems like a good deal for them.

"We would be happy to see 100 per cent affordable, because that is what the village needs – but not on this site."

Returning to the infrastructure problems, he said that there were already occasions where sewage was discharged into streams in the village, and that the community council feared that the new development could only increase this.

Mr Bates said: "There is a valve near the sewage pumping station that opens when the storm water system is overwhelmed, and raw sewage is pumped into the stream. Welsh Water has tried to fix this but it has still happened four times since November."

However, the Vale Council planning department showed no sign of changing its recommendation to the planning committee.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the Vale Council's operational manager for development control, said: "The application for 64 houses on land to the rear of St David's Primary School, Colwinston, is being reported to the planning committee today (January 15) with a recommendation for approval.

"Residents' comments, including the drainage report prepared on their behalf and an updated report, are included as an appendix to the planning application and will be considered by committee.

"The council's drainage engineer has considered the application with regard to surface water drainage and has confirmed that subject to satisfactory conditions requiring the detailed engineering design of the drainage scheme prior to commencement, and the payment of a commuted sum to the council for maintenance, they are satisfied with the proposed drainage scheme.

"Welsh Water have also confirmed that they do not object to the development – subject to the upgrade of the Cowbridge Waste Water Treatment Works.

"These works are scheduled for completion by April 1, 2018. The Local Planning Authority will be recommending that this is required both by condition and as part of a legal agreement, recommended as part of the report to committee.

"The issues raised by the community council have been fully considered by the relevant consultees and there is no reason that the application should be deferred, given that no objections have been raised in this regard."

The Redrow application is for a residential development of 64 dwellings, open space, landscaping, vehicle and pedestrian access onto the road to the west, with a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced houses and one bed apartments.

The application proposes the disposal of all surface water via an infiltration basin soakaway located within the middle of the site, with foul drainage being managed by a foul pumping station that will discharge via a rising main to an adopted foul sewer that crosses the site.

The field where the housing development is planned, showing the flooding that already happens during wet weather.

Dismay at dead foals found in Ewenny lane

AN animal welfare organisation has expressed its revulsion that two dead foals were dumped recently in Heronston Lane, Ewenny.

A spokesperson for Voices Against Neglect & Abuse of all Horses said: "A resident from Heronston Lane in Ewenny discovered these two dead foals down the road from their house on January 5 while walking their dog

"This was the third time in less than two years that this man has discovered dead foals in this lane, the last was gutted like a fish when dumped.

"Both are black and white gypsy cobs. They were tied together and wrapped around with baler plastic then tied to a fence post and dragged off a trailer.

"South Wales Police have been notified and an incident number has been raised.

"We would appeal to anyone with information to contact the police on 101. Someone may have seen the vehicle, but not paid attention to it."

GEM NOTE: *If people are unable to care for horses – or for that matter dogs or cats – there are a number of animal welfare charities in Wales who will help and do what they can. There is no excuse for neglect or cruelty.*

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MASSIVE JANUARY SALE

WE ARE REWINDING BACK TO 2013

PLAN AHEAD FOR THE PERFECT CONSERVATORY OR ORANGERY EXTENSION

When is the best time to start planning for a new conservatory or orangery?

It's a question we are asked frequently at Securahome, and the answer is, as soon as you can.

With many conservatories, the process from consultation to build is quick and straightforward. However if, for example, your house has previously been extended, you want an orangery extension or drainage needs to be moved,it can take months rather than weeks to get any necessary approvals.

At Securahome, we act as project manager on every new conservatory or orangery build and frequently deal with extensions that require permissions. In our experience it pays to allow at least 10 weeks for authority planning permission, with sewer agreements often involving a similar timescale.

When it comes to design, there are plenty of options to consider. Once you've spoken to a conservatory or orangery specialist,allow time to consider the layout and how you will use your new room as well as those all-important design features, before formal plans are drawn up and submitted.

This is your home, so it is important that everything is perfect.

In gardening terms,to ensure that you are sitting back in your new room when there's blossom on the trees, it makes good sense to set

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

Angharad

Angharad.

WEL, dyna ni am flwyddyn arall: ar ôl yr holl brysurdeb, y prynu, y lapio, yr addurno, y cyngherddau, y coginio a – phew! – o'r diwedd – yr ymlacio – bellach mae'r cyfan ar ben ac mae'n flwyddyn newydd eto.

Mae'r Nadolig yn gyfuniad rhyfedd o gyfnod mwyaf poenus y flwyddyn yn llawn 'stress' rhyfeddol wrth ruthro o un lle i'r llall ac ar y llaw arall yn llawn o brofiadau hyfryta'r flwyddyn hefyd. Eleni cefais y fraint o gyflwyno noson garolau yn yr Eglwys Gadeiriol yn Llandaf ar ran elusen NSPCC; cefais modd i fyw wrth wrando ar Gôr Heol y March a Chôr Caerdydd yn Eglwys y Santes Fair yn yr Eglwys Newydd er budd Tenovus, ac roedd cyngerdd Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg (lle mae'r ddwy ferch yn ddisgyblion) yng nghapel Tabernacl y Barri unwaith eto eleni yn bleser pur ac yn gyfle i rieni blinedig gael ymfalchio'n dawel yng ngwaith eu plant yng nghanol yr holl firi.

Ond wrth gwrs, fel gŵyr trigolion y Bontfaen, mae'r Nadolig yn dechrau go iawn ar benwythnos parêd y ceirw. Eleni tyrrodd mwy o bobl nag erioed i'r dre, yn eu miloedd, i fwynhau taith Sion Corn a gweld y corachod lliwgar a'u bochau cochion yn ei helpu ar ei siwrne faith, (a thri ohonynt yn edrych yn rhyfeddol o debyg i fy nghyd gyflwynydd ar *Heno* Rhodri Owen a'i wraig Lucy a'u mab Gabs). Dyma ddiwrnod sy'n arddangos y Bontfaen ar ei orau gyda'i siopau bach unigryw a'r goleuadau llachar ar y coed Nadolig yn creu'r awyrgylch brydferthaf ac mae un ymdeimlad pwysig o falchder ar y diwrnod yma y gellir ei gwmpasu mewn un gair – cymuned.

Nid pawb ohonom sydd â'r amser na'r egni i fod yn gorachod Sion Corn ond mae'r rheiny sy'n rhoi o'u horiau prin hefyd yn cynnig rhodd sy'n llawer mwy gwerthfawr na'r un anrheg mewn papur sgleiniog. Mae nhw'n creu cymuned – ac yn y byd cythryblus sydd ohoni'r dyddie yma, dyna air sy'n bwysicach nag y bu erioed. Er, dyma chi dri gair holl bwysig arall hefyd ar ddechrau 2015 – Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Gigs Bach Y Fro

CAFWYD noson lwyddiannus tu hwnt yn lansiad 'Gigs Bach y Fro' ddiwedd mis Hydref, gyda gig yng nghwmni Al Lewis a Kizzy Crawford.

Roedd y Windsor Arms yn orlawn, gyda 90 wedi mynychu, a'r tocynnau i gyd wedi'u gwerthu o flaen llaw! Dyma oedd y digwyddiad cyntaf mewn cyfres o nosweithiau celfyddydol Cymraeg fydd yn cael eu cynnal o gwmpas Bro Morgannwg dros y flwyddyn nesaf.

Ychwanegwyd elfennau ieuenctid at rhaglen Gigs Bach y Fro yn dilyn derbyn grant o Gronfa Bwrw Mlaen Llywodraeth Cymru, ac fe gynhaliwyd gig 16+ yng Nghlwb Rygbi'r Barri ar y dydd Sadwrn cyn y Nadolig.

Breichiau Hir, band o Gaerdydd, oedd yn agor y noson, ac yna Candelas, sef un o fandiau Gorwelion y llynedd. Roedd Candelas yn lansio eu hail albwm ('Bodoli'n Ddistaw') yn gynharach yr wythnos honno hefyd, a braf oedd eu cael nhw i lawr o Lanuwchllyn i Fro Morgannwg i berfformio am y tro cyntaf ers Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2012.

Profodd y noson hon hefyd yn un llwyddiannus, gyda chynulleidfa o bobl ifanc o Fro Morgannwg a'r cyffuniau wedi mwynhau cymdeithasu a chael y cyfle i wrando ar fandiau cyfoes Cymraeg yn eu hardal lleol.

Caiff y prosiect ei drefnu mewn partneriaeth rhwng Menter Bro Morgannwg a Chlwb Ifor Bach, dan nawdd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Llywodraeth Cymru. Cydnabyddir hefyd gefnogaeth BOOM Pictures Cymru, Cyngor Tref y Barri, Cyngor Tref Penarth a Chyngor Cymunedol Dinas Powys.

E-chlysur

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg yn darparu gwasanaeth e-bost sy'n hyrwyddo gweithgareddau a digwyddiadau cymdeithasol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i blant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion ym Mro Morgannwg – ee. gigs, gweithgareddau i'r teulu, gwersi nofio i blant, cyrsiau hamdden i oedolion...

Gallwch gofrestru i dderbyn y gwasanaeth E-chlysur rhad ac am ddim yma ar ein gwefan: www.menterbromorgannwg.org.

Neu cysylltwch â ni: ffion@menterbromorgannwg.org / (029) 20689888.

MYFYRIWR O'R BONTFAEN YN LLYWYDD AR YR URDD

LONGY FARCHIAD AU mawr i Rhun Dafydd sydd newydd ddechrau ar ei dymor fel Llywydd Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

Daw yn wreiddiol o'r Bontfaen, yn gyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Iolo Morganwg ac Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, ac ef yw Llywydd ieuengaf yr Urdd.

Mae Rhun yn fyfyriwr ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth ar hyn o bryd, yn astudio Hanes Cymru a Daearyddiaeth Dynol, ac mae hefyd yn aelod blaenllaw o fforwm ieuenctid Ceredigion a Bwrdd Syr IfanC, sef fforwm ieuenctid genedlaethol yr Urdd.

Ond mae ei gysylltiadau cyntaf â'r Urdd yn tarddu yn ôl i brofiadau ei blentyndod – bu'n aelod o'r Urdd ers pan oedd yn yr ysgol gynradd, ac mae wedi gwirfoddoli'n gyson ers pan oedd ym mlwyddyn 11 Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Ers hynny, mae wedi bod ar daith flynyddol yr Urdd i Batagonia, wedi gwirfoddoli ar daith i Disneyland Paris, swogio ar gyrsiau ail-iaith yn y gwersylloedd, yn helpu yn gyson yn yr eisteddfodau cylch a sir ac mewn digwyddiadau lleol fel y gala nofio.

Meddai Rhun: "Mi ges i dipyn o sypreis pan ofynnwyd i mi nôl yn

2013 os byddwn yn fodlon bod yn Lywydd i'r Urdd gan fy mod wastad wedi meddwl mai pobl hŷn oedd yn cael gwahodd i fod yn Lywydd.

"Mae'r Llywyddion yn cael eu dewis fesul tri, felly gan mai fi yw'r olaf o'r tri, dwi wedi bod yn disgwyl dwy flynedd i fod yn Lywydd!

"Yn ystod fy nhymor fel Llywydd fe hoffwn edrych ar yr ochr ddyngarol o waith yr Urdd, a gobeithio cynnig gwelliannau ac awgrymiadau o ran sut gellir ei ehangu a'i wneud yn dipyn mwy o beth. Roedd hon yn elfen bwysig fewn yr Urdd yn nyddiau Syr Ifan a hoffwn i ei ddatblygu ymhellach."

Yn ôl Efa Gruffudd Jones, Prif Weithredwr yr Urdd: "Mae Rhun wedi bod yn weithgar iawn gyda'r Urdd ers blynyddoedd ac yn aelod gwerthfawr o Fwrdd Syr IfanC. Mae ganddo syniadau cyffrous ac rwyf yn edrych ymlaen i gydweithio gydag ef yn ystod ei dymor fel Llywydd."

Ysgol Gyfun Y Bontfaen

MAE hi wedi bod yn dymor prysur i'r Adran Gymraeg yn Ysgol Gyfun Y Bontfaen. Mwynheuodd disgyblion blwyddyn 7 wythnos penigamp yn Llangrannog ym mis Rhagfyr ac aeth disgyblion blynyddoedd 9 a 10 am benwythnos i Lan-Llyn ym mis Tachwedd a chael modd i fyw.

Mae'r disgyblion Lefel A hefyd wedi bod yn brysur. Aeth disgyblion BI 12 a 13 i'r theatr i wylio'r ddrama SXTO gan gwmni Theatr Arad Goch. Dyma adroddiad gan Rebecca Walsh, o flwyddyn 12:

"Dydd Iau diwethaf, aethon ni i weld y ddrama 'SXTO' yn Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg. Roedd y ddrama i ddangos peryglon defnyddio ffonau symudol, a rhybuddio pobl ifanc bod ffonau symudol yn gallu achosi problemau. Yn fy marn i, mwynheuais i'r ddrama achos roedd e'n ddiddorol iawn.

"Y prif gymeriadau oedd Lowri, Meic, Jen a Gav. Roedd y stori yn dilyn bywyd Lowri. Roedd hi wedi bod yn secstio Meic, ond gwerthodd e ei ffôn i Gav, felly yn fuan wedyn, gwelodd pawb y lluniau. Ar ddiwedd y ddrama, roedd Lowri ar do'r ysgol. Roedd hi eisiau neidio, a ceisiodd Meic, Jen a Gav ei stopio hi."

Yn ogystal, aeth disgyblion blwyddyn 12 i'r Ysgwrn i weld cartref Hedd Wyn a chlywed ei hanes gan aelod o'r teulu, Gerald. Dywedodd Jamie Ferguson o flwyddyn 12:

"Es i heddiw i gartref Hedd Wyn, 'Yr Ysgwrn'. Mwynheuais i weld y Gadair Ddu – cadair yr Eisteddfod enillodd Hedd Wyn ar ol marw yn y rhyfel. Hefyd hoffais i weld y gegin fach a'r parlwr lle roedd teulu Hedd Wyn wedi cadw'r cadeiriau Eisteddfodol. Mae 'Yr Ysgwrn' yn le hyfryd ac arbennig iawn."

Gallwch chi weld lluniau o daith blwyddyn 7 yn www.llangrannog.blogspot.co.uk. Ewch i www.cymraegybontfaen.blogspot.co.uk neu dilynwch drydar yr adran @cymraegccs am y newyddion diweddaraf gan yr adran.

Cymdeithas Cymrodorion Y Barri

Cefndir

SEFYDLWYD y Gymdeithas ar ddydd Gŵyl Dewi 1906, pan oedd y Barri yn dref oedd yn tyfu'n gyflym.

Mae nifer o enwogion y genedl wedi bod yn aelodau ohoni dros y blynyddoedd – gan gynnwys Silyn Roberts, Edgar Jones, R Williams Parry, Gwenallt, Kate Roberts, WR Evans, Norah Isaac a llawer mwy – pan oedden nhw'n athrawon yn y dref neu'n darlithio yn y coleg. Ar hyn o bryd, Islwyn Jones ydyw un o'n hoelion wyth ac mae'r cyfarfodydd yn hwyliog a chymdeithasol.

Mae'r gymdeithas yn cyfarfod ar y trydydd nos Fawrth o bob mis am 7.15 yn Festri Tabernacl. Dewch i ymuno gyda ni – mae yna groeso cynnes.

Dathlu 150 Mlwyddiant y Wladfa Gymreig

YM 1865, glaniodd 152 o Gymry dewr a phybyr ar lannau moel a digysur Patagonia yn yr Ariannin, De America, â'u bryd ar sefydlu Gwladfa Gymreig fyddai'n parchu'r iaith, ei phobl a'u crefydd.

Maen nhw yn o o hyd – disgynyddion y dewrion hynny yn dal i addoli yn 'yr hen iaith', i addysgu'r plant ac i gadw cysylltiad gref â ni yma yn 'yr hen wlad'. Yn 2015 byddwn yn dathlu 150 mlwyddiant sefydlu'r Wladfa Gymreig yma ac ym Mhatagonia.

Ac ym mis Ionawr bydd Cymrodorion y Barri yn dathlu'r achlysur yng nghwmni'r Athro E Wyn James pan fydd yn trafod gwaith a bywyd un o lenorion amlycaf Patagonia – Eluned Morgan, gwraig amryddawn a chanddi gysylltiadau teuluol â'r Barri. Dewch i ymuno â ni nos Fawrth Ionawr 20fed am 7.15yh. Croeso i bawb.

Cysylltu

RHOWCH yn eich dyddiadur – Cinio Gŵyl Dewi, Nos Wener, Chwefror 27 yng Nghastell Wenfô.

Gŵr Gwadd – Aled Gwyn.

Cysylltwch gyda Rhoswen Deiniol, Llywydd – rhoswend@hotmail.co.uk; neu Eric Thomas, Ysgrifennydd – eric.t@ntlworld.com; neu Eiry Palfrey – eirypalfrey@yahoo.co.uk.

Mum's fear as son endured wait for an ambulance and delay at hospital

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Wendy continued: "Prime Care said it would get back with advice from doctors. NHS Direct advised me to call an ambulance, which I did.

"In total, I rang the ambulance service three times and was told help was on its way, but they didn't know how long it would be. It took until 8am for the ambulance to arrive."

Wendy's son had already been diagnosed with the debilitating HSP virus during one of his two stays at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, during November.

She says the events of that early morning on December 28 have left their mark on her.

"My son passed out twice. When the ambulance came to the house, he collapsed outside and they had to bring him a wheelchair."

FRANTIC SCENE

She had explained to the ambulancemen that her son had been diagnosed with a serious virus and was disappointed that he had to make his own way down the stairs. Following his collapse outside, the ambulance men realised how serious his condition was and stabilised him in the ambulance.

He was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital, where Wendy, her son and the ambulancemen were faced with a frantic scene.

"When we arrived at the hospital, it was like a cattle market – but the staff were doing what they could.

"In the corridor, my son was put on a machine – he was deteriorating and had no colour in his lips."

She said: "We had to go back out to the ambulance and sit for three and a half hours while a bed became available."

She was constantly in fear, because her son's blood pressure was falling alarmingly: "At one stage, it was 75 over 37."

Wendy pleaded with staff to let her son in because he was deteriorating and she felt he was a priority.

"I spoke to a woman on reception, explained that we'd been on the ambulance for three hours and told her what his blood pressure was.

"I said he shouldn't be in an ambulance, he needed to be attended to."

He was given a bed in A & E and stayed there until 4.20am the next morning.

"I have to take my hats off to the doctors and nurses running around in cramped facilities. They need to be commended for working in that environment. It was bursting at the seams."

One thing that infuriated Wendy was that when her son was being dealt with in A & E, two of the people who were taking up the time of staff were there because they had drunk too much.

She said she wanted the public to realise that ambulance delays were not the fault of the service; the problem was they were being forced to keep patients on board until beds became available. She thinks if there were more beds, it would reduce bottlenecks in the system.

"When we originally arrived, there were three ambulances ahead of us with people waiting in them.

"It is not the fault of the ambulancemen if they can't get back out to attend to other patients if they are waiting in a queue outside a hospital."

'LIFE OR DEATH'

Wendy's son was in a serious condition, and both the Ambulance Service and hospital stressed they would have more time to help acute cases if those with minor ailments didn't go to A & E.

A Welsh Ambulance Service spokesman emphasised the service was operating in tough times and response times remained challenging.

"The Welsh Ambulance Service must ensure that we prioritise a swift response to all life-threatening calls across Wales, while our partners at the health boards are making every effort to ensure that patients are taken off ambulances as quickly as possible to allow the crews to be released to answer the other emergency calls.

"Recently, the ambulance service and the NHS in Wales had an exceptionally busy festive period, the effects of which are still being felt.

"Demand was unprecedented, and it meant we were unable to respond to some calls in the time we would have liked.

"We are working with our health board colleagues on a daily basis to minimise delays and ensure the smooth flow of patients through the departments."

The spokesman said the public should think carefully before calling an ambulance. Less serious injuries like cuts, bites, muscle and joint injuries can be dealt with at minor injury units – enabling ambulances and A & E to get on with serious threats to health.

"People who dial 999 for something which transpires to be a minor illness, like a cough, cold or toothache, or minor injury, such as a broken toe, mean our call handlers and crews are pulled away from others whose situation is potentially 'life or death' – like someone in cardiac arrest, or having a stroke or involved in a serious road accident. Lots of people who call 999 may simply need to see a pharmacist or GP.

"Please only dial 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured, or their life is at risk."

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board has had problems with people going to A & E with minor injuries, but following a recent appeal numbers arriving at the Princess of Wales A &E department went down by a third.

The board explained that this has been a huge help to emergency staff who have been able to concentrate instead on very sick patients who need them most.

'PULLING OUT STOPS'

ABMU Chief Executive, Paul Roberts, commented: "I want to say a very big thank you to the public for their co-operation over the last few days.

"This current sustained period of exceptional pressure on our services (late December, early January) is far more than we normally experience during the winter.

"We are pulling out all the stops to treat patients as quickly as we can, and the support of the public in this is crucial.

"I would continue to appeal to them to avoid our emergency departments unless they are seriously ill or injured.

"I must also thank our staff for working incredibly hard during this highly-pressurised time."

The board emphasised it is working closely with social care and community services to ensure patients who are well enough to be discharged can go home without any unnecessary delays. It is also managing the flow of patients through hospitals to free up beds.

Brynteg students rally to Wallich Rucksack Appeal

AS part of the 'communal participation' element of the Welsh Bacc qualification, year-10 students at Brynteg school helped the Wallich charity by putting together rucksacks of essential items for homeless people in Bridgend.

The Wallich charity has been working with homeless and vulnerable people for over 30 years, and aims to find lasting solutions by working with those who are in danger of becoming homeless in Wales.

The students raised the money for the Ruck Sack Appeal by making and selling Christmas decorations to family and friends. The rucksacks contained vital supplies for the unfortunate homeless people of Bridgend county borough.

BRYNTEG again staged the annual 'Stock Market Challenge' for year-9 in which pupils experience first hand the dealings of the stock market system in the safety of a virtual stock market situation.

They are split into teams and get to dabble in stocks and shares, testing their skills to multiply their capital.

The Brynteg work related education and careers co-ordinator Miss G Smith, (of the modern foreign languages department) organised the event and was delighted with the pupils' response.

She commented: "Year-9 were fantastic during the challenge; they really got into it and thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Some very hard-working pupils stood out for us today and were each awarded a prize."

They were: Callum Vause – best finance manager; Rhiannon Harries – best media analyst; Dan Harris and Joe Jones – best floor traders.

The winning group, which started with £15,000, ended with over £80,000! Well done to Callum Vause, Georgia Catton and Lauryn Vickerman.

ABOVE:The winning team of Georgia Catton, Lauryn Vickerman, Callum Vause with Brynteg careers coordinator Miss G Smith.

Hayley's charity quiz at The Swan in Nottage raises £500

ON Sunday, January 11, I had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for the sum of £500 to Viv Morgan from Crossroads Care.

The money has been raised from a Sunday evening quiz held at The Swan Inn in Nottage over the last few weeks. I host the quiz and am delighted with the generosity of fellow quizzers. Since January 2013, the quiz has made £6,300 for 16 different charities, which is an outstanding amount to help worthy causes.

Donations of 10p for an incorrect answer and various other ways of raising funds have been its format. I would like to thank all who participated in the quiz and also the volunteers: my husband Andrew, Kay and David Boswell, and Marion and Clive Jones who collected the money, dealt out raffle tickets for correct answers and counted funds collected over the weeks. Dickie Harris also contributed by selling the football card.

A Christmas raffle, organized by Kay Boswell, also raised funds towards the target for the charity. Thanks also go to Zowie and Alan Smith for the generous 'free drink' for the winning raffle ticket of the lucky correct answer during the quiz.

The quiz will continue at The Swan Inn starting at 6pm every Sunday with the new charity Prostate Cancer Cymru. All are welcome to participate, with no written pages. Come along and join in the fun at any time during the evening!

HAYLEY WILLIAMS

PACT meetings

LITCHARD, PENDRE & COITY PACT at Litchard Mission, Litchard today (January 15) at 7pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, January, 28 at 6.30pm.

FELINDRE,HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) & COYCHURCH PACT at Miners' Welfare Hall, Pencoed on January 28 at 7pm.

MORFA TOWN PACT at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on February 2 at 6.30pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON & MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on February 12 at 7pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD & BRYNHYFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre, on March 30 at 6.30pm.

PORTHCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT at Trinity Church on February 3 at 7pm.

PORTHCAWL EAST CENTRAL PACT at Porthcawl Fire Station, Porthcawl on February 10 at 7pm.

NEWTON PACT at Newton School Rooms, Newton on February 24 at 6.30pm.

Snow White, Catwoman, Little Bo Peep and Madame Butterfly boost Sandville!

ABOVE: The Scottish Referendum – 1st prize, Female Single.

ABOVE: King and Queen with baby George – 1st Prize, Doubles.

ABOVE: Legs, legs and more legs!

'Crocodile Maundy' of the Prince of Wales, Kenfig, alias Al Capone, being the big bad wolf to Snow White.

The Minions – 1st Prize, Groups.

The Cocktails – 2nd Prize, Groups.

Camera Girls – Charlotte Morgan and Helen Pello.

ABOVE: Presentation to the judges.

ABOVE: Arthur Beale alias Snow White and Lenny Dee.

ABOVE: Hostess Francesca Dower, Catwoman welcoming Little Bo Peep and 'Hallo Sailor', to the ball.

ABOVE: Madame Butterfly – 2nd Prize, Single Female.

The Sandville Scrubbers – Title of Sketch 'unprintable'.

Presentation to the judges.

Master of Ceremonies Lenny Dee, with the 'Casual Affair' band and soloist Rhianon Atherton, née Thomas.

ABOVE: Sponsors Barclays Bank and the Twelfth Night Organising Team.

Report and photographs by
KEITH E MORGAN

IT was in 1968 that the first Porthcawl Twelfth night Fancy Dress Ball was held.

That was in the Seabank Hotel, and the winning team included apprentice chef David Jones and his fellow catering colleagues at the Seabank, who dressed up as medics and brought in a patient on a trolley and attempted to give him a heart transplant with a bull's heart!

From those very early days in the Seabank Hotel, Twelfth Night has grown and grown and continues to grow at the Hi-Tide. This year's ball was no exception. In his closing address, Arthur Beale thanked everyone for their continued support of this event, which supports the Sandville Self Help Centre with all the takings from both ticket and raffle sales. Barclays Bank proved to be worthy sponsors again this year, matching the raffle takings pound for pound up to one thousand pounds.

This year's ball was a rather unique event, as it was filmed by a TV crew for a programme entitled *A Year at the High Tide*. This film, which is to be shown on BBC TV, will be a recording of the daily life and times of the Hi-Tide throughout a typical year.

The TV company is called Xanadu Productions with director Craig Hooper, asst director Lewis Phillips and camera crew Helen Pello and Charlotte Morgan.

Organiser Peter Phillips was invited to join Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE and members of her family, as a judge for the evening's fancy dress competition.

The 'Sandville Scrubbers' did their usual performance with a sketch, the title of which this year is unprintable. Soloist Rhianon Atherton turned up trumps at short notice and accompanied the 'Scrubbers' with the lyrics for their sketch.

There was a good turnout of people coming in fancy dress, with the prizewinners being:

Male single: 1st, 'Conchita'; 2nd, 'Don't Care Worker'.

Female single: 1st, 'Scottish Independent Party'; 2nd, 'Madame Butterfly – Japanese Geisha Lady.'

Pairs: 1st, King and Queen and baby George, 2nd, 'The Aunt Bessies'.

Groups: 1st, 'The Minions'; 2nd, 'The Cocktails'

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White Farm, BARRY
Spacious four bedroom Persimmon built detached, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, ensuite to master, detached garage, well presented. ER-C.
£244,950

NEW

Hinchsliff Avenue, BARRY
Semi detached, extended throughout. Main dwelling - 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, wc, cloakroom & family bathroom. Annex - utility room, bathroom, sitting room.
£179,000

NEW

Richard Street, BARRY
Mid terraced, through living room, two bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, UPVC - GCH, town centre location.
£75,000

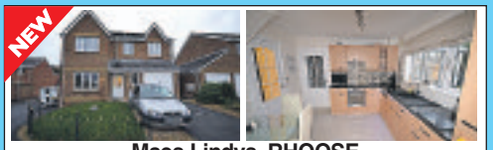
NEW

Broad Close, BARRY
Maintenance free, ground floor, living room, modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, sun terrace overlooking communal gardens, no chain. ER-D.
£114,950

NEW

The Rise, BARRY
Semi detached, placed on Barry Road, three bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, side access, no chain. ER-D.
£99,950

NEW



Maes Lindys, RHOOSE
Stunning modern detached Persimmon built 'Wenvoe' style, living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility-integral garage, four bedrooms (ensuite), enclosed rear garden.
£239,950

NEW

Everard Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, fitted kitchen - integrated appliances, three bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed low maintenance rear garden.
£129,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Greenacres, BARRY
Mid terraced, modern kitchen to front, breakfast bar, living room, modern bathroom, two bedrooms, UPVC DG - GCH via combi, no chain. ER-C.
£124,950

NEW

Oakfield Road, BARRY
Four bedroom semi detached, living/dining room, wc cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room. 1st flr: 3 bedrooms - family bathroom. 2nd flr: Dorma bedroom, enclosed rear garden, long driveway /garage, no chain. ER-E.
£219,950

NEW PRICE NO CHAIN

Claude Road West, BARRY
Semi detached, living room, sitting room, open plan kitchen/diner, utility & WC, 3 bedrooms & family bathroom, attic conversion to regs providing fourth bedroom & ensuite shower room. ER-D.
£229,950

NEW PRICE

Paget Road, BARRY ISLAND
Contemporary, secure living, 1st floor apartment, open plan living/kitchen, views over cricket green, double bedroom, secure parking to rear, pin code entry system. ER-C.
£84,950

NEW PRICE

Glenbrook Drive, BARRY
Ground floor one bed apartment, quiet cul-de-sac, open plan lounge & kitchen, bathroom, designated parking, communal gardens. EPC-C.
£69,950

NEW

Dock View Road, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, original features throughout, 26ft living room, kitchen opening to dining room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, no chain - town centre location. ER-D.
£152,500

NEW PRICE

George Street, BARRY
Bay fronted, mid terraced traditional, two separate reception rooms, kitchen (needing upgrading), shower room (ground floor), three double bedrooms, enclosed low maintenance garden. ER-D.
£109,500

Courtlands, SULLY
No chain, well maintained, mid linked bungalow, one bedroom, living room, leisure facility included, 24hr concierge. ER-D.
£69,950

NO CHAIN

Jenner Road, BARRY
Garden apartment, ground floor, one bedroomed, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom, garden to the front, level rear garden to rear, no chain. ER-D.
£97,950

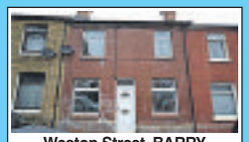
Richard Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining room, replacement fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom, no chain. ER-D.
£107,000

Porthkerry Road, BARRY
Elevated mid terraced, living room, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, informal hobby area to attic, elevated rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£102,500

Dock View Road, BARRY
Semi detached, many original features, four bedrooms, three receptions, WC shower room, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. ER-D
£139,950

Barry Road, BARRY
Edwardian mid terraced, three double bedrooms, two reception rooms, 18ft breakfast/kitchen, off road parking to rear via lane, town centre location, no chain. ER-D.
£135,000

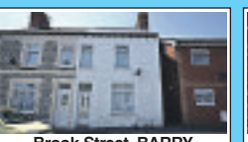
Queen Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, hobby area to attic, 1st floor bathroom, no chain, GCH via combi (not tested). EPC-D.
£95,000



Weston Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room. Replacement roof, re-wired, replastered, floors, ceilings, 2014 replacement central heating, ER-D.
£112,950

Barry Road, BARRY
End of terraced, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, 1st floor bathroom, offered with no chain. ER-D.
£79,950

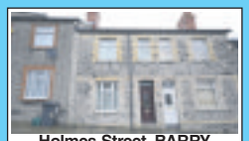
Evans Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, refurbished throughout, two bedrooms, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, luxury bathroom, rear garden. ER-D.
£112,950



Brook Street, BARRY
End of terraced traditional, double extension to rear, living/dining room, ground floor bathroom, ensuite shower room, enclosed rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£119,950

Picton Road, RHOOSE
Modern end terrace, two bedrooms, lounge with log burner, kitchen, cul de sac position, 2 designated parking spaces, space to side to extend (subject to planning permission). ER-D.
£135,000

Fonmon Park Road, RHOOSE
Three bedroomed, link detached, living room/dining area, converted garage, cul de sac position, driveway, overlooking Vale. ER-C.
£159,950



Holmes Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, well presented, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, no chain, EPC waiting.
£90,000

Courtenay Road, BARRY
End of terraced, refurbished throughout, living room, sitting room, fitted kitchen. 1st flr: 3 bedrooms & fam bathroom. 2nd flr: 2 further bedrooms, side access, enclosed garden. ER-D.
£159,950

Teifi Drive, BARRY
Corner positioned, semi detached bungalow, 2 bedrooms, living room, shower room, driveway to rear, UPVC DG - GCH via combi, no chain. ER-C.
£164,950

Kingsland Crescent, BARRY
End of terrace, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room/wc cloakroom, conservatory, four bedrooms & 1st flr bathroom, stairs to hobby area in attic, tandem garage. ER-E.
£169,950

Canon Street, BARRY
End of terraced, traditional dwelling, living room, through dining room. 1st flr: 3 double bedrooms, bathroom. 2nd flr: further bedroom, patio, rear garden, garage. ER-E.
£174,950

Wenvoe Terrace, BARRY
3 bedroomed, end terraced traditional, through living/dining room, sea views from front, UPVC D/G & combi boiler, enclosed rear garden. ER-F.
£149,950

Porthkerry Road, BARRY
Spacious living, original features, 3 separate rec. rooms, 4 bedrooms, wc/shower room, utility room, sea views over Bristol Channel. ER-D.
£184,950

Jenner Road, BARRY
3 bedrooms, attic/hobby area with dorma window, refurbished, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, longer than average garden/garage. ER-E.
£179,950

Melyn Y Gors, BARRY
Modern detached, living through to dining room, 4 bedrooms, family bathroom & ensuite, garage/driveway, rear garden, no chain. ER-C.
£229,950

Blackberry Drive, BARRY
Modern detached, fitted kitchen & bathroom, refurbished throughout, converted garage used as sitting room, driveway providing parking. ER-D.
£234,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Offer

Nina Estate Agents Ltd are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £73,000 for
127 Barry Road, Barry. The Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1BD

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Nina Estate Agents Ltd, 1 Broad Street, Barry, The Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 7AA before exchange of contacts.

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Property Address:
38 Queen Street, Barry, The Vale of Glamorgan. CF62 7EF.
We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £97,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Agents Address: 1 Broad Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. CF62 7AA.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

MADGE
Elizabeth

Suddenly passed away on Monday, 29th December 2014 at home. Beloved wife and soulmate of Bryan, wonderful mother of Andrew and Rachel, ever present support to Sarah and Ben, lovely big sister of Lind, fun-loving mamgu of Daisy. Elizabeth was a kind-hearted sister-in-law and 'Aunty Liz' to so many and a trusted, loyal friend to numerous cousins and countless others and a gifted and much loved teacher.

An exceptional and inspirational lady who loved, laughed and lived life to the full and left a lasting impression on everyone with whom she came into contact.

Funeral services to celebrate Elizabeth's life on Monday, 19th January at 12.15pm at Carmel Baptist Church, Llanharan, CF72 9RD and afterwards at 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, CF35 6AB.

If desired, donations in lieu of flowers to the 'Elizabeth Madge Education Charitable Trust', c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

Yn sydyn, yn ei chartref ar y 29ain o Ragfyr 2014, hunodd Elizabeth. Gwraig anwylaf a ffrind gorau Bryan, mam arbennig Andrew a Rachel, yn gefnogol i'r eithaf i Sarah a Ben, chwaer fawr hyfryd i Lind ac yn fam-gu llawn hwyl i Daisy. Roedd Elizabeth yn chwaer-yng-nghyfraith galonnog ac yn 'Aunty Liz' hoffus i lawer ac yn ffrind ffyddlon a chywir i amryw o gefnderwyr, gyfnitherod ac i sawl person arall ac athrawes ddawnus, hoffus a chwydwybodol.

Roedd Elizabeth yn berson eithriadol o bositif ac yn ysbrydoliaeth i bawb gan fynd trwy bywyd yn chwerthin a charu a byw pob eiliad yn llawn. Gadawodd Elizabeth argraff ddofn a pharhaol ar bawb.

Cynhelir gwasanaeth i ddathlu bywyd Elizabeth Ddydd Llun, y 19eg o Ionawr am 12.15pm yn Eglwys y Bedyddwyr Carmel yn Llanharan, CF72 9RD a wedyn am 1.45pm yn Amlosgfa Coychurch, Penybont-ar-Ogwr, CF35 6AB.

Dim blodau, ond rhoddion os dymunir, i'r 'Elizabeth Madge Education Charitable Trust', trwy law Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

HARRIS
John

Suddenly at home on 24th December, John aged 51 years, much loved brother to Royden, Denise, Phillippa and their families. A cherished son of the late Jeanette & David.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Wednesday, 21st January at 1pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be made at the service to Barry RNLI in memory of John.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

SMITH
Michael Alan (Mick)

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on December 31st, Mick of Phillipa Freeth Court, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of the late Mo, loving son of Alan and Pat, loving brother of Barbara.

Mick will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan crematorium, Barry on Friday, January 30th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

WEEKS
Doreen Mary

Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on January 5, in the presence of her family, Doreen of Rhoose, loving wife of the late Ken, dearly loved mother and nan of Sian, Richard, Gareth and his fiancé Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon until the funeral service at St Peters Church, Rhoose on Tuesday, January 20 at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to NSPCC c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BROWN
Rita Elizabeth (Nee Jenkins)

Due to unforeseen circumstances the funeral service for Rita, planned for Tuesday, 20th January, has been postponed until a later date.

Please telephone W.A. Brown & Son on 01446 792489 after Monday, 19th January (10am – 4pm only please).

PHILLIPS
Jacob Huw

Unexpectedly on December 28, Jake, aged 23 years, of Barry. Much loved son of Kevin and Monica, stepson of Dawn and Richard, loving brother of Anna, Naomi and Hannah.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service at the Tabernacle Chapel, Holton Road, Barry, on Wednesday, January 21 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, at 1pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to the Prince's Trust.

TABERT
Bryan Thomas

Passed away peacefully on 10th January, 2015 in Taunton, Somerset, aged 75 years. Beloved husband of Denise, dearly loved father to Lee, Bernice and Carvin, brother to Carol and loving grandfather to his five grandchildren.

Funeral at the Taunton Deane Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd January at 3.30pm, followed by a Memorial Service in St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major on 26th January at 12 noon.

Donations may be made at the services to the Diabetic Association and Alzheimers Research.

ARCHER
Dennis 'Dan'

(Ex RAF Chief Technician RAF, St Athan)

Peacefully at home on 6th January, Den, aged 77 years, sadly passed away.

The most wonderful and deeply loved Husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Rd, Barry until his service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Thursday, 22nd January at 11am.

No flowers, but donations if desired in memory of Dennis to Scope via Helen Archer. Dennis requested no black attire to be worn.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

BARCLAY
June Mavis (Mavis)

Suddenly in her sleep at Foxtroy Care Home, Bridgend – Mavis, well known for being a former Brown Owl of 10th Barry Brownies for over 25 years, an honorary guest at the Annual Barry Scout & Guide Fete, in recognition for her committed service to the Guiding & Scout movement.

Mavis was also a committed member of The United Reformed Church, Windsor Road, Barry and former member of Barry Ladies Choir.

Beloved wife of the late Alexander John Barclay, mother of Heather, Jackie and Emma, mother-in-law to Tony, Paul and Sarah. Wonderful nan of Gemma, Lisa, Vikki, Samantha, Kyle, Lamara, Rebecca & Chris, a doting great nanna to Alex, Kaelyn, Ryda, Hayden, Brodie, Layla and Deacon. Sister to Ivor, Esme, Novy, Robert and the late Eric Bridges and all their extended family.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Thursday, 22nd January at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations if desired may be made at the service to Dementia UK in memory of Mavis.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

ADAMS
Edward Howell

Suddenly, on December 25 at his home in Pentre Meyrick, Howell peacefully passed away. Father of Paul and daughter-in-law Charlotte and doting grandfather of Lil and William.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, January 20, service and cremation 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BLACKMORE
Doreen (Do)

Peacefully on January 3rd at UHW Cardiff. Do of Hinchsliff Avenue, Barry. Beloved wife of Jim, beloved mum of Sandra, Steve, Terry and Paul. Loving nan & nanny Do to her grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Funeral Service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 21st January at 10.15am. No flowers please, donations may be made at the service to The Salvation Army.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962

FELIX
Donal "Donny"

On Monday, 29th December 2014, Donny passed, suddenly but peacefully, away at home, aged 70 years.

Dearly loved and cherished son of the late Alfred & Julia, loving brother of Josie, Jacqui, Andrew and the late Louise & Frances, brother-in-law to Barry and Jill and treasured uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Donny was loved and respected by so many and he will be sadly missed by everyone.

Funeral service will be held at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, January 21st at 11am. No flowers by request, but donations in lieu, if desired, would be appreciated for Cancer Research Wales via www.greenwillowfunerals.com (donations) or direct to the charity.

Any enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4DE Tel: (029) 2051 4627.

KING
Jonathan Alan

Resting at the Co-operative Funeral Care, 116 Rodway Road, Patchway, Bristol until the funeral service on Friday, 23rd January at 2.15pm at St Peter's Church, Pilning. No flowers, but donations if desired, may be sent to Guide Dogs for the Blind c/o the Funeral Directors, telephone 0117 969 4967.

RAWLE
Margaret

Peacefully on January 6 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Margaret of Boverton, beloved mother of Phillip and June, Susan and Roger, much loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her friends at Bethesda'r Fro Chapel.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday January 22, service and interment 11am at Bethesda'r Fro Chapel, Boverton.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

WESTALL
Roger

After a long battle, Roger of Llantwit Major, on 10 January 2015. Dearly loved husband of Julia and much loved father to Vicky, Sally and Hannah. He was a doting grandfather to Millie, Niamh, Rosie, Sam, Josh, Jack, Izzy and father in law to Steve and Simon.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service on Tuesday, 27 January in Crossway Methodist Church Barry at 1pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium at 2pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made by cheque to British Heart Foundation to the Funeral Home.

MARGETSON
Bethan

Peacefully in Princess of Wales Hospital on Tuesday, 6th January 2015 with her family, Beth sadly passed away but her bravery, courage and determination to live was inspirational to many.

Dearly loving husband to Christopher, devoted and proud mother to Ffion, cherished and beloved daughter to Peter and the late Mair, will be dearly missed but greatly loved and remembered by all family and friends.

Funeral service to take place at Tabernacle Chapel, Fenton Place, Porthcawl on Monday, 19th January 2015 at 12.30pm, followed by interment at Porthcawl Cemetery at 2pm.

Family flowers only, but donations kindly accepted to 'Beth Margetson Foundation' which is to be founded in the forthcoming future to help people whose loved ones are suffering from serious illness.

Dress Code: Bright clothing if desired please.

Any further information please contact Michelle Evans, Riverside Funeral Services, Bridge St, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend, CF32 7AL. Tel No (01656) 849036.

WEBB
Joyce

Peacefully on 11 January at Llandough Hospital, Joyce of Llantwit Major (post lady in 1970s & 80s). Beloved wife of the late Eric, dearly beloved mother of Sue, much loved mother-in-law, sister and aunt. Joyce will be greatly missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, 28 January in St Illtud's Church at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. Flowers welcome or donations by cheque to British Heart Foundation c/o the Funeral Home.

CATTLE
David Ernest

Jayne, Helen, Robin and Alison would like to thank family, friends and customers past and present who attended Dave's funeral and helped us to celebrate his life.

A special thank you for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received, and for the generous donations made to Mind and The Stroke Association in his honour.

As a loving husband and father he will be greatly missed.

Many thanks also to Lyndsay and the Vale Funeral Service for their help during such a difficult time, and to the Rev. Duncan Ballantyne for conducting such a heartfelt service.

HARRIS
Jillian

Passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on 1st January at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Much loved daughter of Elsie and the late Ron; a unique girl.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors, Cowbridge. Funeral service will be held at 12.45pm, Tuesday, 27th January, at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge, followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only. Donations may be made at the service for the 'Cowbridge Gateway Monday Club' who played such a key role in Jill's life.

T.K. Farman
31/7/25-14/1/09

Years are passing but you still are
as close to me as yesterday.
Your memories are my keepsake,
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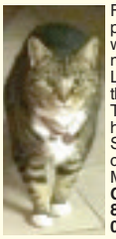

Female tabby with white chest & paws. Wearing a red sparkly collar with bell & paws ID badge. She is microchipped - West Farm Vets, Llantwit Major have been informed that she is missing. Last seen Tuesday morning January 6 at home, Illtyd Avenue, Llantwit Major. She is very timid & shy. Please check your garden shed/garage. Much appreciated - thank you.
Contact: Mrs Tracy Edwards, 8 Illtyd Avenue. 01446 679687 or 07780 774915.

Birthdays

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Samantha Morgan

Happy 25th Birthday for 20th January

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Caroline Nethercott

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From Mum, Dylan & Finn xx

GABRIELLE CLARK

Happy 13th Birthday on the 19th January

Love from Mum, Gren, Nana, Grandad & Sniffles xxx

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PORTHCAWL RUGBY ROUND-UP

First team avenge close defeat

PORTHCAWL travelled to Bryncethin on Saturday, determined to avenge the close defeat at South Road back in September.

The subsequent 18-6 victory was founded on a monumental scrummaging display by the Seaweeds front row of Tim Lunn, Dai Saines and Jamie Fry, who did admirably out of position at hooker, setting a solid scrum which reaped huge benefits, taking two strikes against the head.

The match would be surely be affected by the combination of biting cold and strong wind and so it proved as both sides found difficulties in handling at times, especially both scrum-halves, with kicking a lottery at times.

That said, Porthcawl's bigger eight, with skipper Lloyd Long outstanding and Richard Hnyda prominent, took the initiative early on and most of the half was spent in home territory, but with scores elusive as the conditions took their toll. It was fully 35 minutes into the match before Porthcawl's persistence finally paid off as fly-half Josh White slotted over a good penalty for 3-0.

This was scant reward for the visitors, whose efforts to play rugby bore little reward other than a solid platform for the second half. It was Bryncethin who drew first blood in the second spell as outside-half Paul Short kicked a penalty but this was temporary relief as Porthcawl's pack turned the screw and provided a welter of possession for the backs to use, every member of the pack cohesively driving forward.

It had to pay off and centre Jake Thomas, outstanding in both attack and defence, deftly changed the direction of play and, from 40 metres out, he powered blind and dived over for a super corner try, with White's conversion carried wide by the wind. At 3-8 down, the home side again clawed their way back into it as Short slotted his second penalty from 30 metres.

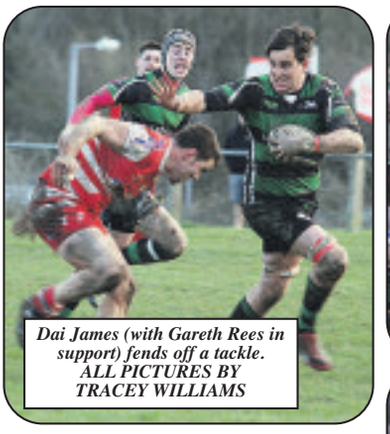
However, this was soon cancelled out by White's second penalty and at two scores in front, Porthcawl never looked back and continued the unrelenting attack, with substitute Ollie Jones, in his first match for many months, showing glimpses of his attacking ability.

Flanker Dai James, having his best match for some while, took full advantage and secured a match-winning try off the back of a powerful surge, which was just reward for a good afternoon's graft. White's conversion cemented the lead that the Seaweeds never lost in a solid victory that was really never in doubt.

This result was huge for Porthcawl, who are two matches behind most of the leading pack and the remainder of season now looks interesting, with Bridgend Sports due at South Road on January 24.

Porthcawl are trying to re-arrange the league match against Ogmore Vale for this Saturday, so please call the club on 01656 784242 for confirmation.

Paul Fielding



Dai James (with Gareth Rees in support) fends off a tackle. ALL PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

Captain Lloyd Long forces his way through the Bryncethin defence.

Nick Nutman leads the Porthcawl charge.

UNDER-7S

A great start back after the Christmas break with all boys giving 100 per cent, the final score Porthcawl 18 Valley Ravens 7.

Match 1 - Porthcawl 10 Valley Ravens 4; match 2 - Porthcawl 8 Valley Ravens 3. Player awards went to Harrison Hier, Ben Harvey and Rhys Davies - well done boys.

GE

UNDER-8S

The first game of the new year and we entertained the well organised Ravens who on the day were too strong, especially with our upfront defence being a little slow off the mark.

On the positive side we scored some great tries and we executed some great passes. Matthew again showed his determination and carried on from where he left off last year, in full form, crossing for three tries and picking up the individual clubman award for another fine performance.

Others are continuing to improve as the season moves forward and as confidence builds; Dexter, Brody and Joel all crossed the line followed by the ever dependable scorers of Theo, Ryan, Lewis and Dewi, who also picked up top try scorer award.

Although as a team we were not tagging as we wanted, a number of players still hit their target of 10 per game with Oscar awarded top tagger with 12, with a handful of players close behind - Brody and Lewis 10, Rose 9, Dewi and Sam with 8.

In Stuart and James' game the rugby was fast, and free flowing, end to end partly due to the lack of tagging by us at times. In the second game our performance improved somewhat and Lewis really shone through with his superb tagging, running and willingness to work hard for his team, and he keeps going from strength to strength.

Both teams seemed to make good use of the wide pitch. Five tries from Theo, and two each from Ryan and Dexter kept us right in the game. Ryan really showed good spatial awareness with some long probing passes taking advantage of the space he created.

Overall, the team was quiet - our solid midfield of Dylan, Matt and Joel kept us right in it but overall our defensive line was a little slow in closing the gaps, but we did at least keep a straight line - well done all.

In the next game it was a similar story where the team tagging needs some polishing, but overall there were a number of positives with Samuel putting in a try-saving length of field tag along with some super runs rounding off a good all round performance, and Brody tirelessly tagging all day but not getting the space to show his pace.

Oscar and Rose worked hard in defence, with Rose picking up the 'making a difference' award for her running and tagging performance; Lex showed strong supporting runs and tags, but he struggled to find the space to show his pace, while Dewi was able to run in six tries for the team. Final score 24-33.

RH

UNDER-9S

After almost a month with no competitive rugby and only one training session under our belts, a trip up the road to Tondu was just what the doctor ordered.

Our team were again down on numbers with only nine players available. There was not much between the two sides – both liked the open play and both were happy to exploit any weaknesses the other side had.

At the halftime whistle we were 5-3 down yet very upbeat and buoyant as we were getting stronger and stronger as the first half came to a close. Scoring two tries straight after the break saw us level the match at 5-5 with relative ease.

It was nip and tuck all the way from there, only for a try at the death from Tondu to deny us a deserved draw. Captain's comment: "Great performance from all of the team. Dylan Bell, for his directness, and Max Williams, for his four tries playing from a more central position, were my stand out players."

Try scorers: Max Williams (4), Dylan Bell (2), Will Thomas-Parker.

JP

Sports battle Abercwmboi

IT was a trip to the Aberdare Valley for Bridgend Sports under-9s on Sunday, for their first game of 2015.

With many games affected by the bad weather and having already seen the scheduled fixture cancelled with Llanishen, a frantic Saturday night saw the Sports secure a fixture with a visit to Abercwmboi to play on their 4G pitch.

Abercwmboi started the game and soon took the ball into the Sports' half; some early tackles and good defensive pressure from the Sports saw them gain turnover ball to run back at their opponents.

Both sides tried hard to find a way through each other's defence but no side could conjure up the required magic to score in the first period.

It was evident that both sides were a little rusty with the occasional pass going to ground. For the Sports there were some notable efforts from Ben King, Jodie Keane, Callum Lewis, Tyron Davies, Dylan Morgan and Ieuan Pilliner in both attack and defence.

A change of players by both teams early in the second period saw the game significantly change. Abercwmboi benefited from an injection of players with experience and pace, and they soon capitalised on a Sports error early in the second half.

With ball loose on the ground, Cody Stone pounced and raced in to score for a 1-0 lead. The Sports almost levelled following a good period of pressure but frustratingly lost the ball just short of the line and as hard as they tried, some inexperience showed and they could not level the score.

Two further tries from Cody Stent and Calem Chapin followed for Abercwmboi to take hold of the game with a 3-0 lead.

Bridgend Sports under-9s eventually responded and were soon piling the pressure on Abercwmboi again, following runs from Cian John, Ben King, Ieuan Pilliner, Jodie Keane and Callum Lewis. But it was a combination of good support and passing from Thomas Chick, Thomas Coles that gave Tyron Davies the opportunity to register a score and the second period ended 3-1.

Going into the third period 3-1 down, Bridgend Sports started well by attacking from the off. They faced opponents who challenged every attack, and it was some four minutes into the half before Ben King found some space to break through the home team's defence to set up a close finale with the score at 3-2.

It was, however, that combination of Cody Stent and Calem Chapin who had the last word with a try apiece to make the final score 5-2.

It was a very competitive game but Abercwmboi were able to conjure up some magic through their young wizard Cody Stone who proved to be the difference between the two teams.

SP

Local boxers earn certificates

CERTIFICATES have been presented to Llantwit Major junior boxers in recognition of their attending a six-week, no contact, boxing course.

They were coached in basic boxing skills, circuit training and boxing related fun and skill games. It is intended to have a boxing sparring evening in the Cambrian Club (Old Flying Club), Rhoose on Saturday, May 16 - more details in due course.

If you would like to join our club we meet at the gym at the rear of Llantwit Major Rugby Club as follows: Mondays, senior training 5.30pm to 7.30pm; Wednesdays, juniors (nine to 14 years old) 4.30pm to 5.30pm and seniors from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, and seniors also on Fridays, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

For more information contact: Tony Meakin (01446 796784/07790310898) or Mick Dixon (01446 710527/07970394966, or email mbdixon36@aol.com.

TM

TOUGH DRAW FOR COLLEGE

THE draw for the annual UK Schools' Marches 7s rugby tournament is now complete and Bridgend College have been drawn in Group E, where they will face strong competition from Blundell's, Wycliffe and Cheltenham College if they are to progress in the cup competition.

The largest and longest running 'school-run' rugby 7s competition is stronger than ever his year and sees 32 school teams competing to find one champion.

The Marches 7s, hosted by Hereford Cathedral School at Wyeside in Hereford (HR4 0PH), supported by The Old Market Hereford and British Land, takes place on Sunday, March 1, from 10am to 5.30pm.

Admission is free of charge and all are welcome to attend and watch the exciting, fast-paced rugby.

Former Welsh rugby captain, Paul Thorburn, will be present during the tournament, presenting the cup, plate and bowl to the wining teams at the end of the day and also guest speaking within the Marches 7s matchday dining marquee (please call 01432 363590 for information and booking advice).

CT

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Famous riders from the Vale – George Bowden

by BRIAN LEE

THERE may still be a few surviving ex-Cardiff dockers who remember George Bowden, who ran a tea and coffee stall in Cardiff's Docklands back in the 1960s.

George was a former jockey and back in 1985, I reported in the now sadly, long-defunct The Sporting Life that Barry-born George, one of the select band of jockeys who could claim to have ridden in the Epsom Derby and the Aintree Grand National, had died at the East Glamorgan Hospital, Tonteg, near Pontypridd. His death would probably have gone unnoticed, but for that Sporting Life obituary I had filed.

The son of John Bowden, of Rectory Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Bowden was apprenticed to Yorkshire trainer Mr Golightly, but when he became too heavy for the flat at the end of his apprenticeship, he moved to Col. Morgan-Lindsay's yard at Ystrad Mynach.

George was said to have later lived at Holmes View, Port Road, Barry.

His biggest success was when he won the 1928 Welsh Grand National at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse on Sir David Llewellyn's Miss Balscadden, which had won the race two years earlier in 1926, when ridden by the Vale's David Thomas.

Twenty-year-old George, who was a rare judge of racing pace, took command of the race a long way from home and won by a distance.

This was George's first win over fences, as up until then he had only ridden a winner on the flat and a winner over hurdles.

His first win on the flat was at Salisbury on a horse called Dropitin, in July of 1925.

The late Mrs Posy Lewis, of Llantwit Major, who was the first woman to be granted a licence to train under National Hunt rules, told me: "George was a handsome and likeable fellow and rode winners for my father, Ralph Morel, and later myself."

The late Jack Thomas of St Athan recalled: "I knew George well. We both schooled horses together in our younger days and I recall him riding a filly in the Derby, which is a rare thing indeed. It was called Stampede and was owned by Dr Sixsmith of Cowbridge, and he used to ride it on his rounds.

"Anyway, it trailed in last."

George is the only jockey to have ridden in the Welsh Grand National before and after the Second World War. He rode in the race a total of six times and was third on Quite Calm behind Wise Don and Vinicole in 1931.

One wonders whether George had any connection with the Bath races ringer scandal that shook the racing world back in 1953.

Gomer Charles, a Cardiff bookmaker was sent to prison for his part in it and in his book *Ringers & Rascals,* David Ashworth revealed that Lord Eliot, director of a London commision agency, telephoned the police to report a visit by Charles and George Bowden, a former jockey and trainer.

Allegedly they had suggested Eliot present himself to the Chief Constable of Bath as a representative of the Jockey Club and discourage further action in the Francasal affair.

In 1966, Gomer Charles was shot dead by burglars on the doorstep of his Park Place, Cardiff home.

Incidentally, I remember seeing two policemen outside the house in question, as I was walking home after finishing my night shift on the Western Mail.

Although he won the Welsh Grand National on Miss Balscadden, he once said that the best horse he ever rode was Breconian, which had given him his first win over the sticks.

It was on Sir David Llewellyn's Breconian that George won The Lawrenny Steeplechase over three miles at Tenby races in 1929.

If you have any further information, or photographs re George Bowden or David Thomas, who was from Pyle near Bridgend, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Email brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone me on 02920736438.

Positive results for bowlers

SULLY Bowls Championship teams played their first post-Christmas games with the club side home against Taff Ely and the 0'60 team away to Newport with both sides coming away with positive results.

The stadium team welcomed Taff Ely to Sully on Saturday and were expecting a convincing win as the Sully team are proving to be a strong side at home.

The game began with Sully on the offensive and they quickly moved to a 30-shot lead, 46-16, by the fifth end.

By the end of the 10th, Sully continued to force the pace and were still ahead by 31 shots, 71-40. Sully were in no mood to relinquish their advantage and by the 15th end had moved to a 52-shot lead, with all rinks ahead and a maximum 22 points looking good.

As the game continued over the final ends, Sully remained well ahead, but allowed Taff Ely to reduce the deficit by 11 shots – for a winning margin of 41 shots, 131-90.

One disappointment was the rink of Matthew Woodcock, who unfortunately, dropped six shots over the last four ends to lose out by two shots, 16-18.

Sully, by winning on five rinks, picked up 20 of 22 points on offer, which keeps the pressure on second placed Newport, with Blaenau Gwent favourites to win the league. Sully's target is to finish second which would be an improvement on each of the last two seasons.

***Rink scores** (Sully first): F Phillips 26 v 15 A Malkin; M Woodcock 16 v 18 M Thomas; B Griffiths 26 v 15 R Rand; K McLeod 22 v 13 I Randell; M Clarke 21 v 16 L Bridge; B Foscolo 20 v 13 A Dash.*

The 0'60 team had to visit Newport last Wednesday and win two of the four rinks to guarantee qualification to the play offs.

Newport are also in the mix to qualify and a struggle for Sully was expected but the battling qualities of the Sully rinks are very evident this season and although the game was close with Sully slightly behind, skips Ken McLeod and Dave

Snelling ensured the result by fighting back to win their games from behind, earning the four points required.

Congratulations to Martin Clarke, who has made the Welsh senior team for the forthcoming four nations tournament, to be held at Stanley in March. **FP**

BARRY DARTS LEAGUE NEWS

IN the first round of fixtures of 2015, the BFC Allsorts maintained their unbeaten record with a 14-7 victory over the Tynewydd Inn.

The Billy Ghosts remain on top of the league despite a 14-7 away defeat to the Poachers.

The Wanderers beat the Mariners 14-7. Dave Davies, from the Mariners, hit two 180s on the night. The Plastics took a trip away to the Runways and came away with a 12-9 win.

The Dockers also had a 12-9 away win against the Park Weasels, while the Cwm Talwg had the biggest win of the week with a 20-1 win against the Loungers.

There will be a delegates meeting on January 20 at the Cadoxton Cons club at 7.30pm, where the draw for the League cup will be made.

RL

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 6:

1st Jenny Vaughan & Irene Thomas 60.03%; 2nd Celia & Huw Thomas 59.77%; 3rd Peter Millar & Denis Mottram 58.98%. Celia and Huw Thomas won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. DR

SANT CURIG GIRLS SPORT NEW KITS

Nina Chives, Amy Whithey and girls from Ysgol Sant Curig, Barry.

BARRY-based Nina Estate Agents have supported the girls football team at Ysgol Sant Curig, by paying for ten new kits in the school's colours.

The girls used to have to wear the boys' kit, but they wanted to have their own to wear in matches and tournaments throughout the Vale and Cardiff.

Parent Michael Goode, whose daughter Gwenno is in the team, then approached Nina about whether the company would be interested in supporting the team, and they agreed to pay for the new football kits to encourage more girls to take part.

"I am pleased to be able to support the girls football team at Ysgol Sant Curig, and wish them good luck with the new season," said Nina Chives, Nina Estate Agents.

"A big thank you to Nina for her support, as the girls are very grateful and they look great on the pitch in their new kits," commented Amy Whithey, teacher.

The girls are looking forward to wearing them at their next football tournament at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff on Thursday, January 22.

Evan's success

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams, who is the top trainer at Ludlow, won the opening four-year-old juvenile hurdle last Wednesday with John Constable, who scored by one-and-a-half lengths from Mighty Missile.

The 6-1 chance was partnered by stable jockey, Paul Moloney, who is the leading jockey at the Welsh borders meeting.

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Strong unbeaten run continues for Pencoed as they earn last gasp win

PENCOED RFC extended their unbeaten league run to nine matches with this hard-fought victory against Aberavon Green Stars at Little Warren.

Pencoed took the lead in the opening minutes, skipper Keiron Moore setting up third phase ball with a determined run, before half backs Rhys Clarke and Marc Davies handled swiftly, with Davies introducing Lloyd Ryland with a short pass, the centre slicing through the home defence from 30 metres for a fine try, Davies converting.

A good Pencoed scrummage put the home side under pressure and Davies increased his side's lead from the resultant penalty opportunity. From the restart, Pencoed conceded field position and the Green Stars capitalised with their opening try, a lineout catch and drive which saw Riley Kehoe driven over, Ryan Compton adding the extras.

The home side then failed to take a gilt-edged try-scoring chance, and shortly afterwards were made to pay, Pencoed increasing their lead with a try straight from the training ground.

A well-disguised pass in midfield from outside half Davies saw blindside wing Liam Halse split the home defence to race in under the posts untouched. Davies converted. The home response was immediate, Pencoed finding themselves outnumbered down their right flank with the Green Stars crossing wide out to reduce the Pencoed lead to 12-17 going into the interval.

The warm half-time drink was taken with a certain trepidation among the considerable Pencoed support who wondered whether their team's five-point cushion was enough with the home side having the second half elements in their favour.

Compton reduced the Pencoed lead further with an early second half penalty and the home side began to enjoy territorial advantage, Pencoed wing Halse doing well to thwart a particularly dangerous home raid metres from his own line.

Pencoed second row Dano Howells then won the ball against the lineout throw and Davies eventually cleared Pencoed lines. The home side then picked up a yellow card before Pencoed flanker Aaron Halse almost finished off good combined play, unfortunately losing his footing only metres out.

Davies then edged Pencoed further in front with a penalty goal before the Stars returned to the attack and, with Pencoed penalised at a drop out 22, this gave the home side a foothold in prime positon, and half back Ford Cooksley dummied his way over, and with Compton converting the Stars led for the first time in the match with only a couple of minutes left on the clock.

Pencoed were staring a first league defeat in the face, but to their immense credit Pencoed kept their composure, young half backs Clarke and replacement Adam Williams using the blindside in the home 22 where an inside pass from Williams to supporting flanker Halse saw the Pencoed man of the match race around at the posts, Williams adding the conversion for a last gasp 22-27 victory.

In this difficult encounter, played in trickey handling conditions, Pencoed No8 Gareth Prentice and centre Ryland were also man of the match candidates, with hooker Tom Drew battling through a chest infection in obvious discomfort.

Amy Morgan looks for space for Pencoed Phoenix under-16s.

Joint lady of the match Kayleigh Powell. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Try time as Jade Thomas crosses the whitewash en route to the Phoenix under-16s' 34-17 win.

On Saturday, Pencoed make the long journey to Newcastle Emlyn in the fourth round of the Swalec Plate competition, when it is anticipated two full coaches will travel in support.

PENCOED 2ND XV 10
NANTYFFYLLON 2ND XV 22

With the Pencoed 2nd XV playing their first match since October 4, this Mid Glamorgan Division One game was always going to be a difficult task against second placed Nantyffyllon.

Despite the visitors dominating the early part of the match, Pencoed led 10-8 at the interval with tries from Aaron Songhurst and Conner Jones.

The second half was in contrast, with Pencoed on top over the first 25 minutes of the half before conceding late tries for the Llynfi Valley visitors to run out 10-22 winners.

There were good wins over the weekend for the junior section of the club with the under-13s winning their local derby against Bridgend Athletic by 32 points to 10. The under-16s were comprehensive 55-7 winners against Tylorstown.

PHOENIX RISE TO VICTORY

THE first half of this game between Pencoed Phoenix under-16s and Treorchy didn't start well for the Phoenix as they only had 12 players, Treorchy taking hold of the game.

With a few minutes of first half remaining, however, a team effort and break saw Megan Whittaker cross to make the halftime score 12-5.

With a good talking to by head coach Leanne Casley at the break, Phoenix came out fighting for the win. Tries came from Kayleigh Powell (two), Seren Hart, Jade Thomas, captain Amy Morgan, who returned from injury, and Megan Whittaker, with two conversions by Kayleigh Powell.

Treorchy fought back towards the end of the game but Phoenix held on, the final score 17-34; captain Amy Morgan and Kayleigh Powell were voted ladies of match by Treorchy.

It was a fantastic effort from all 12 girls, with head coach Leanne Casley commenting: "I was really proud of every individual on that field, they showed guts, determination and came away with an outstanding win."

Pencoed Phoenix are looking for 12-15 year olds for their under-15 squad and 16-18 year olds for the under-18 squad. No experience is necessary as we have qualified coaches that can help you. There is a chance to play for the Ospreys squads through training with Pencoed.

Please contact Leanne Casley on 07921312897 for more information, training takes place on Thursdays at Pencoed school from 6pm.

The club are delighted with the selection of senior Phoenix player Melissa Clay for the Welsh women's Six Nations squad.

Mel's initial recognition following a training day at WRU headquarters led to her selection in the Welsh women's sevens squad that won the plate competition at the recent Dubai Invitation 7s.

Her selection for the forthcoming Six Nations was the icing on the cake, and just reward for her dedication and hard work - she becomes Pencoed Phoenix's second international.

TR

Kenfig win but in poor game

Rhydian Geraint leaps highest in the lineout for Kenfig Hill.

IT is often said that the result did not reflect the quality of the game. They did not say it after this one, as Kenfig Hill emerged 3-0 winners against Builth Wells at the Groe.

The referee, Jason Griffiths, however, had a fine game. Kenfig Hill's points came from the boot of Lloyd Giles.

DHD

Revive! Bridgend announces MG move

SINCE becoming a sponsor of British Touring Car Championship champion Andrew Jordan three years ago, local businessman Chris Clee's company Revive! has been seen by millions of people throughout the UK and on television.

Now the Bridgend based mobile bodywork repair company is looking forward to the 2015 racing season which sees Jordan joining the works MG team with Triple Eight Racing.

Jordan, the 2013 BTCC champion, will move to the car and team that took the 2014 manufacturers' title in a major new phase of his British Touring Car Championship career. Chris says he is excited about Andrew's prospects for the coming season.

"Andrew looked at a lot of different options for 2015 and it came down to deciding on the package that gave him the best chance of winning the championship," said Chris. "It is a complete change for all of us and I'm really positive about it. This is a fabulous opportunity for Revive! to become a sponsor on a great looking manufacturer-backed car from an iconic brand."

Triple Eight is the most successful team in the BTCC field and the MG6 GT is a proven race-winning package. The 2015 season will be Triple Eight's 19th year in the BTCC, while MG is the fastest-growing automotive brand in the UK. The new BTCC season starts at Brands Hatch on April 4/5.

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, January 7 (the British simultaneous pairs) - First, Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; Second, John Beard and Liam Sheridan; Third, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler. Winners on handicap Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage.

Friday, January 9 (the club annual party) North/ South - First, Glenda Roberts and Liam Sheridan; Equal Second, Glyn Williams and Vida Halford & Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill; Third, John and Christine Evans, Winners on handicap Colin Lewis and Susan Hunt. East/West - First, Jenny Vaughan and Andy Robertshaw; Second, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner; Equal Third Tony and Emer Disley & Norma and David Newman. Winners on handicap Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings and with play scheduled to commence at 7pm it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays, from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available. Master points have now been introduced and as with all occasions all bridge players will be warmly welcomed.

These take place, also at Nolton Church Hall, on Thursdays at 11am - these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play - more information is available from John Evans on 01656 880372.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, January 8 were Linda Jenkins, Teresa Griffiths, Eileen Mahoney, Geoff Barnett and Arthur Harvey.

DN